

INTHEWEDNESDAY REVIEW

BRADLE E CONCLINION. BEN BRADLEE, THE EDITOR WHO EXPOSED NIXON, ON ALTHE PRESIDENTS, LI



Mandelson facing censure from official watchdog over 'sleaze'

THE CRISIS enguling Peter By Fran Abrams Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. over his £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson deepened last night as he faced new allegations that he had broken the rules governing the conduct of ministers and MPs.

Mr Mandelson is facing censure from Parliament's antisleaze regulator for not disclosing the loan, which helped him buy a £475,000 house in Notting Hill, west London, in the MPs' register of interests.

Meanwhile, the Tories claimed that Mr Mandelson had breached the code of conduct for ministers by not consulting civil servants and the Prime Minister over the financial aid.

In a bid to pre-empt censure, Mr Mandelson yesterday wrote to Elizabeth Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, setting out the details of his agreement with Mr Robinson, the Paymaster-General.

Last night, Labour MPs and ministers were dismayed by the affair. Many fear that it will tarnish Tony Blair's image because Mr Mandelson is one of his closest allies, and they are furious the Prime Minister was not told about the 1996 loan until last

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week, when Mr Mandelson became aware that the circumstances of his house purchase

were about to be made public.

As well as provoking allegations of "sleaze" and "cronyism" at the heart of the Government, the crisis also threatens to reopen the long-running feud between Mr Mandelson and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Yesterday, their two camps angrily accused each other of

leaking details of the loan. Despite Tory demands for Mandelson to be sacked, the Prime Minister is standing by him. The controversy also makes it less likely that Mr Robinson will resign as Paymaster-General over the Christmas period. His resignation had been widely expected after a string of revelations about his business activities. Mr Robinson has assured Downing Street he does not have any other loan arrangements with Labour MPs.

Although Mr Mandelson in-

and ANDREW GRICE

sisted he had done nothing wrong, senior Commons sources told The Independent that a low-interest loan could certainly be regarded as a financial interest which should be declared in the MPs' register.

Ms Filkin will investigate the Mandelson case when she succeeds Sir Gordon Downey in February Two years ago, Sir Gordon upheld a similar complaint against a Conservative MP, Roy Thomason, whose creditors were urged not to call in his loans when he was in financial trouble.

Sir Gordon ruled that Mr Thomason should have registered the preferential treatment he received and said guidance to MPs should be altered to reflect his finding. It has been estimated that the cheap loan given to Mr Mandelson by Mr Robinson has saved him about £10,000 over two years.

In a letter to Mr Blair last night, the Tory leader, William Hague, said the loan also reoresented a clear breach of the ministerial code of conduct, which says no minister should accept a gift or service that might appear to place him under an obligation. The code says any minister in doubt should consult first instance he should talk to his permanent secretary.

Mr Mandelson did not inform either his most senior official or the Prime Minister of the loan until last week.

Mr Hague urged Mr Blair to act, to show that the code was worth the paper it is written on". "Are you prepared to take the tough action needed to restore public confidence in the way your government conducts itself?" he asked.

In his letter to Ms Filkin last night. Mr Mandelson said the loan did not have to be registered "as it was not a gift or gained through my being an MP". However, he asked her to rule on whether he should have disclosed it, "given the substantial media interest".

His allies insisted that he had not broken the ministerial rules. saying he did not need to consult officials or the Prime Minister because he was sure there

was no conflict of interest. Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons Public Administration Select Committee, said that while "technically" there had been no offence, many Labour voters would be unhappy at what had happened. "I think it just leaves people with the impression of, well, we thought that by voting Labour and having a Labour government we got away from this kind of thing"," he said.



Peter Mandelson in London yesterday as the affair over his loan from Geoffrey Robinson deepened Reuters

Exotic in both his plumage and connections

PETER MANDELSON'S description of himself (and the Treasury minister Geoffrey Robinson: as "exotic" yesterday in an interview on Radio 4's Today programme shows selfawareness, if nothing else.

It is not every day that a front-rank politician secures a loan of £373,000 from a ministerial colleague to buy a handsome house in Notting Hill. And as with his London home, so with his choice of well-off or well-connected friends from Lady Carla Powell to Sir John Birt, from James Palumbo to Bob Avling

So too, with his plumage, which has progressed from like Hugh Gaitskell or enjoyed the vulpine, bearded, V-neck sweater look of his early 20s to what one over-enthusiastic Foot with Lord Beaverbrook. Evening Standard writer last Mr Foot, moreover, recounts in year described as "style God". his biography of Aneurin Bevan Contrary to one of the many urban myths, he doesn't have his shoes hand-made, but he does buy the odd £500 suit at the Hoskins. Exotic is about right.

Part, though only part, of the fascination with Mr Mandelson's lifestyle (as opposed to the rather different questions of whether the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry should have declared his loan much earlier or accepted it all) is a hangover from Labour's rigorous asceticism of early 1980s - a period Mr Mandelson has devoted his political career to expunging from the party's folk memory.

Several of the previous gen-

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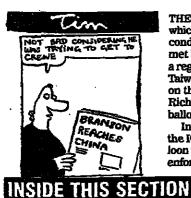


DONALD MACINTYRE

eration of Labour politicians were rich like Harold Lever, well-connected socially like Roy Jenkins, fashionably domiciled the patronage of a wealthy and powerful man, like Michael how freely his great left-wing hero mingled with Beaverbrook in "the strange company" of Lord Castelrosse and Brenoan Bracken. Shrugging off the latter's description of him as a Bollinger Bolshevik by asking: "Why shouldn't I like good wine? The best I've ever had from you, by the way Brendan, I'd call bottom lower class Bolshevik Bollinger."

Bevan was a full-blooded socialist, in a way that Mr Mandelson, by any stretch of the imagination, is not. Yet the paradox is that Mr Mandelson remains, for all his many enemies, as tribalistically loyal to Labour as Bevan was. Turn to page 3

Branson's hot air blast defeats Chinese



THE CHINESE Government, BY PAUL MCCANN which hows before no one in the and PHIL THORNTON conduct of its internal affairs, met its match yesterday. Even a regime that fires rockets over Taiwan was unprepared to take on the publicity missile that is Richard Branson and his big

In a day of twists and turns, the ICO Global Challenger balloon was at one point facing an enforced touch-down and dra-

matic failure. The next minute a London news conference was told the Chinese had relented and Mr Branson was on his way.

This time it took the inter-

vention of two prime ministers - Tony Blair and Sir Edward Heath. The project director. Mike Kendrick, said: "The Chinese say that in the end it was

down to the British ambas-sador but I think Ted Heath and Tony Blair and all the others have also played a part."

Sir Edward himself obliged and said he was "very glad" if his efforts had helped to break the deadlock. The Chinese had granted the team permission to fly through a restricted section of

as soon as possible. The prob-lems began when the balloon, with Everest looming in front of it, was forced to drift northwards into air space strictly controlled by the Chinese. At this point. Chinese air traffic

controllers demanded that the

Mr Kendrick said it was too dangerous because if the crew descended from their present the country on condition the altitude of almost 30,000ft, balloon leave Chinese airspace

balloon land.

clouds would cause equipment to ice over, resulting in a crash. Chinese authorities asked the crew to land at Lhasa airfield in Tibet yesterday morning but, Mr Kendrick said, the balloon overshot and it was impossible to come down anywhere else.

The crew must now cope with having used up a large amount of fuel to keep the bal-

INSIDE THE REVIEW Clothes watching Hamish McRae

IRA killers freed IRA members convicted of murders have been freed early from jail Home P4

Ses overflow Children may have to travel further to school Home P6

Wrangles over Iraq Kofi Annan may play the ceptral role in mending post-strike hostilities Foreign P7

US in banana split United States joins battle with EU over bananas Foreign P9

Marconi for sale GEC invites contractor to bid for its £4bn defence electronics arm Business P10

Elton lashes out Watford chairman attacks resentful' Hoddle Sport P20

Anne McElvoy Mandelson's cheap loan may turn out expensive for the Government

Ken Livingstone Netanyahu can never provide peace for Israel Comment P4

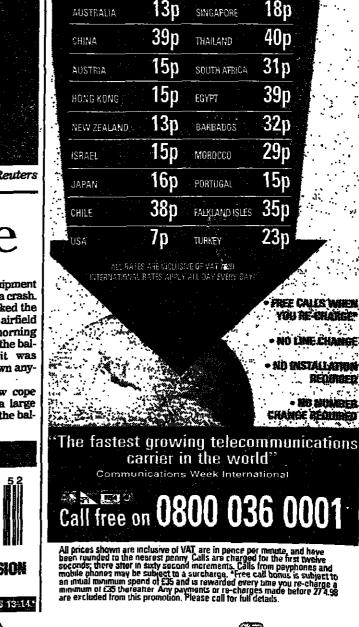
Why immigration is good for the British

Richard Dawkins The ultra-Darwinist answers your questions Features P8

Confessions of a window-dresser at Barneys in New York Fashion P9

Opera interview Michael Kaiser Covent Garden's new chief





Leak revives bitter feud at party's heart

WHEN TONY Blair gave Peter BY ANDREW GRICE Mandelson the job he coveted as the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in his July cabinet reshuffle, the Prime Minister knew he was taking a

The move risked inflaming a bitter feud in the Labour Party: Gordon Brown has never forgiven Mr Mandelson for backing Mr Blair for the Labour leadership when John Smith died in 1994. But Mr Blair hoped that putting the two men into the Government's top two economic posts would force them to bury the hatchet and work together again, as thev had done until Mr Smith's

Yesterday cabinet ministers were wondering whether Mr Blair's gamble had backfired. Both the Mandelson and Brown camps suggested the other side was responsible for the leak of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury minister and one of Mr Brown's clos-

Initially, Mr Blair's reshuffle gamble seemed to pay off. The much-predicted turf war between the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry failed to materialise. Indeed, the Chancellor moved to draw a telling the Labour conference

after Mr Blair's job. But the dayto-day pressures of government soon reopened old wounds. Mr Brown sought to spike Mr Mandelson's guns by announcing measures to boost Britain's competitiveness in his draft Budget in November, leaving the DTI little to announce in its much-trumpeted White Paper on the issue this month.

Then Treasury sources criticised Mr Mandelson's decision to abandon plans for a partial privatisation of the Post Office. They described his plans to boost its commercial freedom. as "rubbish" and "garbage". Mr Mandelson prevented an all-out war by refusing to retaliate. He was puzzled by the criticism, since Mr Brown and he had agreed that a sell-off would be politically risky.

The language of the "Treasury sources" who criticised the Post Office decision meant that suspicion fell on Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press

But that was small beer compared with the revelation Robinson's finances. about Mr Mandelson's loan from Mr Robinson. In public, Mr Mandelson said yesterday he had "no idea" how the story line under the events of 1994 by emerged. In private, he told friends he believed he was the

volving the Treasury and The Guardian newspaper, which broke the story.

Rumours reached the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry last Wednesday that a newspaper had got wind of his secret loan. Alarm bells rang louder when he read a story in The Guardian last Thursday saying he was "anxiously awaiting publication of a hostile biography by the Mirror journalist Paul Routledge" in the new year. Mr Mandelson feared the loan would be one of

On the same day, his private office at the DTI rang Alastair Campbell, the Downing Street press secretary, to alert him to the problem. Mr Campbell told Mr Blair, who was preparing to make a Commons statement on the air strikes against Iraq.

red box, on which he worked at the now-infamous Notting Hill house at the weekend, con-Chief Treasury Secretary, acfeet over inquiries into Mr

Mr Mandelson planned to write back, saying the DTI officials were handling the matter thoroughly and, crucially, revealing that since September he had stood aside from the in October that he was not victim of a "classic sting" in- Robinson inquiry because he

the book's main selling points.

Mr Mandelson's ministerial tained another problem. David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow cused the DTI of dragging its



Gordon Brown, right, remains bitter that Peter Mandelson backed Tony Blair ahead of him for the Labour Party leadership Adam Butler

cause of the loan. First he consulted Mr Campbell, who counselled caution, suggesting that it would be better not to tell Mr Heathcoat-Amory about the loan.

"It is going to come out anyway," Mr Mandelson said. "Why?" asked Mr Campbell.

"Because Charlie Whelan knows about it," said Mr Mandelson. "I don't think I have any option. I have done nothing wrong. I am not going to keep

coming out."

The Guardian insisted that Mr Whelan was not the source of the information, and Mr Whelan told friends he was furious" at the suggestion that he had leaked it. Mr Whelan's friends say it is "nonsense" to suggest he would want to damage Mr Robinson, a close ally. They suspect Mr Mandelson's allies may have had a hand in the story surfacing in The

months more.

have declared a cheap loan

from Geoffrey Robinson could

dependent adjudicator on com-

it private... It is on the verge of "draw the fire" from the Rout- irayed him. Yesterday Mr Manledge biography—and spike Mr Routledge's guns.

One Whelan associate recalled a pre-emptive strike in The Guardian, written by one of the three journalists who revealed the house loan, before Mr Routledge published a bi-ography of the Chancellor a year ago. This detailed Mr Brown's continuing bitterness at losing out to Mr Blair for the Labour leadership and his feel-

Watchdog's first big case

delson admitted he had "no idea" how the latest story had emerged.

But Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said: "Some people will wonder whether this leak was inspired by the Treasury, who are thought to have been 'at war' with Mr Mandelson for some time. If any of the Chancellor's aides were

two main economic ministers cannot work together."

Mr Mandelson, who was "outed" as a homosexual by Matthew Parris, the gay former Tory MP, on BBC TV's Newsnight programme in October, is also bracing himself for further trouble next month. Friends say he fears Mr Routledge's biography will be "a huge muckraking smear" containing alleto be behind this leak, that gations about his personal as

The post of Parliamentary

Commissioner for Standards

was set up in 1995 after a rec-

ommendation by the Commit-

tee on Standards in Public Life,

then headed by Lord Nolan.

Lord Nolan found public confi-

ly low level.

new post

good points.

tired of sleaze.

dence in MPs at a dangerous

Mrs Filkin, who is married

with three daughters and who

formerly can the London Dock-

lands Development Corpora-

tion, was head-hunted for her

gossip might dismiss our elect-

ed representatives as a shady

lot, but if pushed most people

believe most MPs have their

Commons is a better place

since the last general election,

when the public showed it was

She hints that the House &

She argues that bar-room

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Tories query ties to firms

PETER MANDELSON was By Fran Abrams under pressure last night to step aside from a number of DTI responsibilities, as the Tories alleged his links with some companies caused a con-

for Trade and Industry's connection with the Paymaster £16m to AGB International. General, Geoffrey Robinson, AGB in turn went into adminand sponsors of the Millennium Dome have led to opposition protests. The Tories have already called for Mr Robinson to pay £37m to pensioners who lost money through schemes raided by Robert Maxwell. because of the minister's links to Maxwell companies.

ment of Trade and Industry into the Maxwell affair is still going on and although Mr Robinson Westminster Correspondent

has not been questioned, the Tories believe he should be.

Mr Robinson was chairman of a Maxwell engineering com-Both the Secretary of State pany, Hollis Industries, which went into administration owing istration, owing £1.7m to the Maxwell pension funds.

In a letter to the Department of Trade and Industry's Permanent Secretary, Michael Scholar, the Conservative's trade spokesman, John Redwood, demanded to know why Mr Mandelson had not stood

An inquiry by the Departaside from the Maxwell inquiry. "If, as the Secretary of State claims, he was insulated from any involvement or influence in

the investigations being conducted by the DTI into the Paymaster General, which minister does have overall responsibility for them?" Mr

Redwood asked. Similar questions have been asked about the sponsors of the Dome. Although Mr Mandelson has publicly distanced himself from the fundraising for the project, he has been reported to be active behind the scenes.

Mr Mandelson has held five meetings recently with British Aerospace and GEC, both of whom are expected to be major

Mr Mandelson could also be responsible for a decision on whether to refer a proposed merger between the two companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Even

greater unhappiness within the DTI has been sparked by the British Airways case.

Bob Ayling, the airline's chairman, is also chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, which runs the Dome, and a close friend of Mr Mandelson. BA is a major sponsor of the Dome and Mr Mandelson is the sole shareholder in the New Millennium Experience Company.

Mr Mandelson took legal advice on his role in the BA deal, but has not disclosed what position his officials took.

The Independent has been told that DTI officials expressed unhappiness at Mr Mandelson's decision not to step aside from a decision on BA's proposed merger with American Airlines.

THE MANDELSON loan will be By Fran Abrams

the first big case for Parliaplaints against them, and for ment's new anti-sleaze watchdog, Elizabeth Filkin. It may the Contributions Agency, she leave the Secretary of State for is not expected to pull her Trade and Industry wishing punches. her predecessor, Sir Gordon "I am used to people who

Downey had hung on for a few dune themselves, and I am used to quite a number of peo-Mrs Filkin, who takes over in ple who think they can dupe me. February as Parliamentary That does not mean there may Commissioner for Standards. is not be some people who have said by colleagues to be an exduped me. But I have seen tremely tough operator. quite a lot of the liars," she told Results of her inquiry into The Independent in an interwhether Mr Mandelson should view before the Mandelson

story broke. Mrs Filkin, 58, has invited members of the public to write to her about MPs' probity.

vestigating complaints. In her

easily be critical of Mr Man-After more than five years And there are hints that she may dig rather harder than dealing with stroppy tax men Sir Gordon when it comes to inand customs officials as an in-

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Filkin: Quite prepared to be seriously unpopular

past role she says, that tenacity has paid off: "I have left no stone unturned and sometimes we have got to the bottom of things because we have gone the extra mile and done an extra bit of inves-

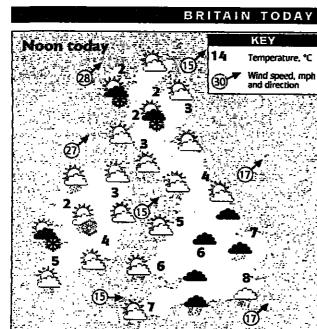
She and her aides have gone out to look at the places where incidents took place, they have trawled through bank accounts and have sought independent corroboration of the stories they have been told.

tigation."

Of course, she adds, most MPs are decent individuals

Already, snippets have appeared, hinting that she may be a left-winger because she was once associated with the Charter 88 civil liberties groups. On the other hand, there have also been murmurings about her directorships.

"I don't mind in the slightest. If that's the price of a free press I am delighted to have it," she says. "Even if it is hard," going and I have to be seriously unpopular, I feel it is a job worth doing."



FORECAST

General situation: Southern and eastern England will have spells of rain this morning, although it will slowly become drier and brighter from the west this attendoon. Remnants of overnight rain will clear Wales, western and northern England to leave a mix of bright spells and isolated showers. Eastern Scotland will be rather cold and breezy, but it will be generally dry with sonny spells. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a blustery mix of sunshine and

Channel Is, Cent 5 & SE England, London, Midlands, E Anglia, E England: Outbreaks of rain for much of the day, but stowy Cearing in the west, A rresh SW, Cent N & NW England, Wales 1 200. SW, Cent N & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Any remai overnight rain will soon clear to leave it cold with sunshine and a few sho moderate west to south-west wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).

NE England: Staying largely dry with a few sunny spells, but cold. A requirement wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F). N Ireland: A rather cold day with a blustery mix of sunshine and showers turning to sleet and even show later. A fresh to strong so wind. Max temp 3-4C (37-39F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W & N Isles: Cold and quite breezy with sunn spells and showers, the showers turning to sleet and snow. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 2-4C (36-39F). SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Cold but bright with Isolated wintry showers, although the south should be mainly dry with summy spells. A freshening south-westerly wind. May temp 2-4C [36-39F], Tonight, frosty, Min temp -2 to OC (28-32F)

Christmas Eve will start dry but chilly. Wet and windy, but milder weather will spread during the day. England and Wales will be windy with some rain on Christ-mas Day, but mild. Further north it will be windy with sunshine and showers

TR A London: A41 Finchiey Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green, Major works, at Firchiey Rd Gyratory, Until 31st December. Cambridgeahire A1 between Alconbury and Haddon. Construction, larne closures and contratiow. Until 31st December. Buckinghamshire: Med between Junctione 1a (M25) 8-3 (Wycorribe East). Throe narrow larnes both ways and a 50 mph speed first in force, Until 1st January 1999 Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Laneastine: M5 Bothveen J27 Stantish and J28 Levland. Roadworks; contrallow and a 50mph speed limit either side of Champel Richard Sorvices, Until 15th Fobrisary 1999 West Yorkshire: M1 Between J42 Lottous Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourton Roadworks and a 50mph speed limit. I bett 34m December 34m Until 31st December 1998. Cumbria: M6 J37 Kendal. Roadworks, carion. Until 18th Jenuary 1993 AA Roadwaedic Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source The Automobile Association. Calls charges

LIGHTING UP 4.00pm 3.56pm 4.05pm 3.45pm 3.55pm 3.52pm 3.52pm 3.41pm

HIGH TIDES

AIR QUALITY Today's readings London
S England
Wales
C England
K England
Scotland
N Ireland

SUN & MOON

Star rises: 08 05 Star sets: 15.55 Moon rises: 10.51 Moon sets: 20.56 First quarter: December 26

WEATHERLINE For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009



YESTERDAY EXTREMES to Isles of Scilly 11C (52F)

est: Padstow, Cornwall 4 0 hrs For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday

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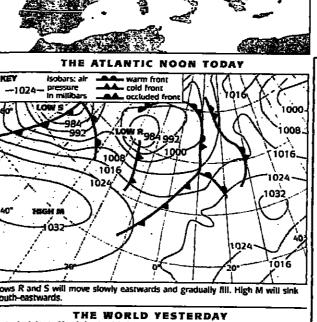
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24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Monday RAIN OR

Shine...

EL NINO caused havoc this vear but La Niña, the colder cousin that follows, has failed to live up to dire predictions. La Niña had been forecast to decimate crops across the Pacific region. But Malaysia has said it has only experienced moderate crop damage so far to its rubber and palm-oil plantations. Cocoa crops escaped virtually unscathed, an early Christmas present for farmers who endured a three-month

drought earlier in the year.





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THE MANDELSON LOAN

Upmarket life on preferential rates

How did Peter Mandelson afford a £475,000 house on a back-

bench salary of £43,000? And, once he had, how did his budget stretch to Ozwald Boateng suits at £1,800 a throw? Where did he get the money for his lavish lifestyle and for expensive stays in Venetian hotels? Well, now we know.

Thanks to the £373,000 he borrowed from Geoffrey Robinson - at preferential rates of interest - his salary went much further. And, once his salary rose to £90,267 a year as Secretary of State for Trade and Inand PAUL WAUGH

At the time he borrowed the money from Mr Robinson, Mr Mandelson could have expected a building society to advance him no more than about £130.000 - three times his salary - or, more unusually, £172,000 four times his salary. Instead, he got £373,000 from Mr Robinson at the Midland Bank base rate of interest.

If he had borrowed the same amount from the Halifax, the monthly repayments at the end of 1996 would have been about €2.172, compared with £1.865 on

At current rates of interest, and taking into account a £40,000 repayment Mr Mandelson made to Mr Robinson in the spring of 1997, the difference between Halifax-rated repayments and base-rate repayments would have risen to £541 a month - or enough for an Ozwald Boateng suit every three months.

The total saving over 25 months may have been not far off £10,000.

Nevertheless, the repayments will still have stretched Mr Mandelson, as he had to

base rate - or a monthly saving take out a mortgage for a fur- former home and foreign secther £150,000 to buy the property and to refurbish it.

At the time, his take-home salary would have been in the region of £2,500 a month - an amount which would have been swallowed up by both sets of repayments His mother, Mary, is believed

to have helped him, but she is not thought to be particularly wealthy. Mr Mandelson's father, George, left her the family home in Hampstead Garden Suburb and other assets valued at £57,711 when he died in 1988.

The trade secretary's grandfather. Herbert Morrison, a retary, left £28,000 when he died in 1965. That would be worth £300,000 today, but it all went to his second wife, leaving his first wife. Mr Mandelson's grandmother, with nothing.

Mr Mandelson, who also owns a £70,000 house in his Hartlepool constituency, is likely to have made some money from the sale of his previous home, a flat in Wilmington Square in upwardly mobile Clerkenwell - the sort of property that now sells for up to £125,000. But this is not enough to make a dent in the cost of his four-storey Notting Hill house.

£35,000. MPs can raise a mortgage of up to about £126,000 - which is just enough to buy a studio flat in Notting Hill. For a house of Mr Mandeison's size, such a sum would mean he would have had to buy in a more downmarket areas of London. like Lambeth.

Margaret Beckett, the minister's predecessor at the Department of Trade and Industry, has retained a "graceand-favour" flat in Whitehall since she became the Leader of the House.

No such official residence exists for Mr Mandelson.

Like all ministers with contituencies outside of London, Mr Mandelson is eligible for a £12,717 grant towards the upkeep of his Hartlepool home. The Additional Cost Allowance grant is paid to all MPs who claim it, but unlike backbenchers, ministers cannot use

Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, said that she was "baffled" by the size of the Robinson loan to the minister.

the money on a home in London.

"I would hate the public to ing half-a-million-pound houses. MPs from outside London are perfectly able to purchase

Abbott said. "Peter must know the issue here is not just whether any impropriety occurred but whether there is the appearance of im-

propriety." she said. "He argues he did not reveal this sizeable loan to his officials and he didn't declare it in the register of MPs' interests because he did not see that there

was a conflict of interest. "But Peter must know that think that all MPs insist on hav- that is not the point - the point is that we strive for the utmost

What's so special about Notting Hill?

S NOTTING HILL GATE is not BY TIM DOWLING quite as hip as it used to be. Peter Mandelson moved there from Clerkenwell at a time when just about everybody in the in-crowd was travelling the

The shabby-genteel, roughedged nature of Notting Hill, Bayswater, Portobello Road and Ladbroke Grove in which once enabled the well-heeled to be robbed right outside some of the coolest restaurants in London, is now rather more genteel than shabby.

Rocketing house prices, security cameras, residents parking and the bistro-isation of some formerly scary pubs have Imade it safe for the likes of Mr Mandelson and close friends like Elisabeth Murdoch and Carla Powell.

Trendy galleries and shoos including Space, where Mr Mandelson reportedly bought furnishings for his minimalist house, are all within walking distance.

Many of the trendy young things who until recently decorated the streets of the hippest of City millionaires is changing the area into an overpriced suburb.

The middle class families who once inhabited the mid-Victorian terraces have mostly sold up and moved west, where their money is worth more. The homey street party held annually on trestle tables in Mr Mandelson's street is now something

of a star-studded event. while like 192. Damien Hirst's Pharmacy and Anthony Worrall Thompson's

Woz, thrusting media turks are losing their tables to their em-

Other top-drawer residents include the head of Channel 4. Michael Jackson; the BBC director-general, Sir John Birt; Alan Yentob; Chris Evans; both Dimblebys and the media tycoon Lord Hollick

Stella McCartney and Jade Jagger both have homes in Notting Hill, as do Mariella Frostrup and Robbie Williams. Bridget Jones's creator, Helen Fielding, is a local, as is the Bridget Jones character herself, although how the latter affords it is a bit of a

The Notting Hill Carnival in August is the largest street festival in Europe, an event so fervently supported by many of the newly ensconced local residents that they actually retreat to Tuscany for the duration.

While the area still somehow manages to maintain a degree of cultural vibrancy and variation, most visitors are generally too busy shopping to notice. area in west London have for- Paul Smith's new emporium aken it for north and east graces an entire corner build-condon, worried that the influx ing on Kensington Park Road, ing on Kensington Park Road, while Agnes B and Bill Amberg's posh handbag shop do brisk business nearby.

Despite a faint air of menace in its less salubrious quarters, Notting Hill's dangerously trendy reputation is now largely undeserved.

Drug dealing and robbery are slowly giving way to lesser menaces like subsidence and location filming. What remains is quite simply a very nice place to live, at least for those

JAGGER MAYALL PETER Harrow Road NORTH KENSINGTON **PADDINGTON** BAYSWATER RICKMAN **NOTTING** RICHARDSON WILLIAMS FREUD Bayswater Road MARTINE MCCUTCHEON Notting Hill Gare McCARTNEY KENSINGTON SHEPHERD'S BUSH ALBARN Kensington Gardens

Home from home in Hartlepool

Last month, causing edgy irritation among some of his closest friends, he was the only cabinet minister to attend the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday ty. Yet according to Margaret McDonagh, Labour's new general secretary, he is one of the very few senior Labour politicians who will, if asked, change his plans to attend a party function in some unfashonable suburb at short notice.

Last Friday night, he was in Hartlepool dispensing copious amounts of wine, beer, Scotch, Bacardí, orange juice, pies sausage rolls, and vol-au-vents, at the Christmas celebration he throws every year for his dis-tinctly old Labour constituencv élite - solicitously dispensing gifts of House of Commons adge to the most special party activists like Elsie Reed, agent for over two decades to his predecessor Ted Leadbitter, and showing every sign of en-

joying himself. The contrast between his two homes; the one rapidly becoming one of the most famous private residences in London, and the four-bedroom semi in Hutton Avenue, Hartlepool that he bought for £84,000 shortly after his selection as a parliamentary candidate, underline the two sides of Mr Mandelson the man.

The interior of the narrow three-storey Georgian house in Notting Hill's Northumberland Place, all white walls and, in the ground-floor kitchen diner, gleaming stainless steel work-surfaces, is a temple of minimalism designed by the fashionable architect Seth home, with its large, homely and unmodernised kitchen, its cluttered old-fashioned living



Peter Mandelson outside his Hartlepool home

delicon the Labourist.

This is where he keeps many of his most precious family photographs, the framed copy of his maiden speech in Hansard, the cod issue of The Guardian mocked up as memento for his 40th birthday the front page of Pravda commemorating the day Gerald Kaufman buried Labour's unilateralist defence policy at a Red Square press conference, and the Vicky cartoons of his revered grandfather Herbert Morrison. Many of his books are also here: the diaries of Dick Crossman and Harold Nicholson, rubbing shoulders with

bidding work on the history of the Labour Party Conference. There is no sign - as he chops vegetables for a stew, or prepares a breakfast fry-up, with one eye on the ancient black and white television set

Lewis Minkin's dauntingly for-

room, lives and breathes Man- on the kitchen table - that he is any less at home here. Indeed it has a particular sentimental importance. It was in this welcoming redoubt that he spent

much of his four "wilderness years", two of them nursing his seat after leaving his job as director of communications in 1989, and two of them as a backbench MP struggling to come to terms with the fact that he was anything but a favourite of John Smith, the then party leader. A recent poll by the Hartle-

pool Mail after Mr Mandelson was "outed" on BBC television showed overwhelming support from the local population, who seemed understandably to have regarded him as a victim under pressure, entitled to his privacy. But even these remarkably easy-going constituents are going to be baffled that he had to borrow this kind of sum to locate him-

self in a house in Northumberland Place rather than stay in a flat that he could afford without extra help.

He is not wholly alone, of course; both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have benefited from Mr Robinson's hospitality, though not on the spectacular scale of the loan to Mr Mandelson in 1996. But many of his fellow MPs will seize on it as evidence that his appetite for the good life has got the better of his hitherto legendary political judgement.

There is no doubt that even some of his close, long-standing, and loyal friends get knotted up about him - saying he has left them behind as he mingles with the rich and famous, and then in the same breath that they know he would visit them in hospital or rally round if they were in trouble.

suggesting that he could. As a result, he is much less willing than most of his colleagues to make concessions either to party orthodoxy in what he says or he does, or to yield to what he appears genuinely to dismiss as a metropolitan and liberal view that he should say the words "I

apparently doesn't want to be

- or think he could become prime minister, despite odd ar-

ticles in the last month or two

He believes he has been working more than his fair share of 18-hour days to see abour get elected and prosper in government. For the rest, he certainly wants enjoy himself in the way he wants; and believes that it is no one's business but his own. This is controversy, for him and the Government, on a scale even this relentlessly controversial politician has not encountered before. But then, whatever eise, no one has ever He may also have revealed accused him of lacking the apsomething of the outsider



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Operas in English to get explanations... in English

THEY FORM the English Na- By DAVID LISTER tional Opera. They sing every performance in English to underline their philosophy that opera should be understood by their audience.

The only problem is that it seems the audience sometimes can't understand a word of what is being sung.

Now the new head of the company is considering introducing surtitles - the words being sung on stage will be reproduced on a screen. And the favoured solution is for airline-style small screens on the seat in front.

Nicholas Payne, who joined the ENO this year as general director from the Royal Opera House, where he was opera director, has admitted that audiences simply can't make out the English words when a soprano or tenor enunciates them.

avoided surtitles, partly because some people would so that our operas can be un-

Arts News Editor

argue that, if the English version is unclear, the operas might as well be put on in their original language; and the company would thus lose its raison d'être.

But while Mr Payne is not contemplating performances in other languages, he is examining the prospect of surtitles. One option is that used at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where surtitles are not above the stage but on a tiny screen on the seat in front, allowing the spectator to decide whether to read them.

Mr Payne said: "This is the subject which appears to preoccupy those who write to ENO more than any other. It is an issue which we cannot, should not, avoid. We set out In the past the ENO has our stall to make opera accessible, we perform in English

that they cannot hear what we say." He added: "I cannot deny that there are operas where too much of the text is hard to

understand ... Not just the big ensembles and concerted passages in 19th-century opera ... But in much of late-19th and 20th-century opera - especially once composers regularly employ triple woodwind, the richness and density of the orchestral sound militates against understandable text."

But as Mr Payne acknowledges in the ENO's house journal, there are problems with surtitles, the main one being synchronisation.

"What could be less theatrical," he asks, "than the audience laughing at the punch line before the singer has delivered it? This happens frequently with surtitled Mozart. Yet even I who deplore such practice have to acknowledge the palpable increase in the au-

derstood, yet people complain dience's concentration since Wagner was surtitled at Covent Garden.

He also claims that surtitles are "the lazy solution lazy because they undermine the need to improve singers' diction and orchestral balance ... lazy too because they encourage mental laziness in the audience.

Nevertheless, while he was at the Royal Opera, Mr Payne agreed to surtitles for Harrison Birtwistle's Gawain, because it had "an exceptionally dense orchestral score with much high-lying soprano singing". titles for an opera in English.

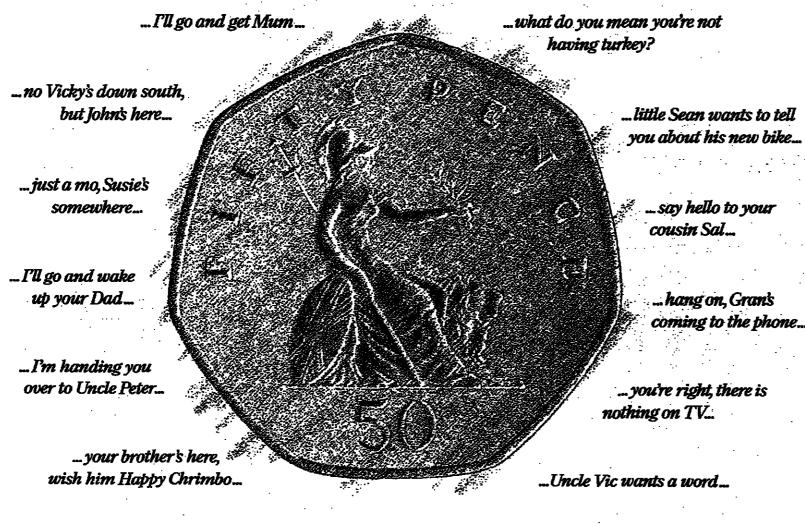
Mr Payne is now examining the pros and cons of installing the surtitles, and promises initiatives over the next year.

He has already discovered one con for the shortsighted opera lover: surtitles on the back of the seat are hard to read if you wear bifocals.



John Tomlinson and Robert Tear in the ENO production of 'Boris Godunov' last month

... the twins want to sing 'Silent Night' for you...



... I'll drag Aunt Em away from the washing up...

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Killers of Gardai get early release

THREE MEN convicted of the By ALAN MURDOCH IRA murders of two Irish police officers were freed early from their sentences yesterday under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement

Thomas Eccles and Brian McShane, serving 40 years for widow of Garda Seamus Quaid, Rogers, of west Belfast, who there is going to be no decomsentence for the murder of Detective Garda Seamus Quaid. A fourth man, Patrick McPhillips,

is expected to leave today. The early releases drew criticism from garda representatives and relatives of the murdered men. McPhillips and McShane were all sentenced to death for shooting Mr Hand, but the sentence

was commuted to 40 years each. These men have served less than half their sentences. Penalties in the Irish Republic are in normal times harsher than those for police killers in Northern Ireland, where life terms served tend to be near-

The releases increase pressure on the IRA to fulfil its commitment to weapons decommissioning. Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, said the families of the gardai had to be treated with sensitivity. He expected the paramilitaries to "observe all their commitments" under the

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors said freeing the prisoners early effectively meant lifting the protection given to what was an in Dublin

unarmed force by the government through its normal minimum 40-year sentence

Angela Quaid-Sheehan, murdering Frank Hand during said: "We are numbed by the a post-office raid in Co Meath whole thing. I cannot underin August 1984, left Portlaise stand why the rush is to let them Prison near Dublin with Peter out now when the IRA says murderers of gardai be released now when there isn't one gun handed over lof weapons?

The family of Garda Hand declined to comment, telling Irish media simply: "There is no point in the family issuing a statement when the needs of law-abiding people are ignored.

The Irish Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, last week wrote privately to the familie of the murdered gardai, advising them that the men's reses were imm<u>inent</u>

Michael Kirby, vice-president. of the Garda Representative Association, compared the act of killing an officer of the force to an act of treason. He said: "We would have thought the releases would have been the last thing to be considered."

Yesterday's releases coincided with the freeing of the IRA's commander of female prisoners from Maghaberry jail in North-ern Ireland. Gerakline Ferrity 27, who served eight years of a life sentence for the murder of Uister Defence Regiment sergeant Albert Cooper in 1990, was the last of the IRA's female prisoners to be released under the terms of the agreement.

IN BRIEF

Man charged with double murder

A MAN appeared in a Liverpool magistrates' court yesterday accused of killing Sharon Lester, 22 – who was found stabbed to death at her home in Liverpool last weekand her daughter, Jade, 2, whose body was later found on wasteland in a bin bag. Thomas John Park, an unemployed joiner, 24. was remanded in custody until 29 December.

Chelsea coach on sex charges

THE FORMER England footballer Graham Rix appeared in court yesterday charged with having sex with an under-age girl. The Chelsea coach is also accused of three offences of indecent assault on the girl earlier this year. West London magistrates' court adjourned the case until 12 January. Mr Rix, who is married and has four children, was remanded on conditional bail.

Jury to hear overdose inquest

AN INQUEST into the death of Emma Humphreys, who died aged 30 of a drug overdose after being released from a life sentence, should be heard before a jury, St Pancras coroner's court in London ruled yesterday. Friends say she had become addicted to chloral hydrate in prison.



ANNE MCELVOY

Robinson is a one-man Santa's grotto: a source of trips and Cup tickets

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Anew short story by Paul Theroux: 'Gilstrap, the Homesick Explorer'

図FILM: ANTHONY **QUINN REVIEWS 'STATE OF EMERGENCY** AND CHOOSES THE

YEAR'S TEN BEST FILMS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCEIVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Tourists get list of 'unsafe' airlines

AIR TRAVELLERS must be BY PHILIP THORNTON given a list of airlines and airports which will be unsafe because their computers will be infected by the so-called millennium bug in 2000, a crossparty committee of MPs said

The Commons Environment, Transport and Regions aware that foreign airlines Select Committee said the Government must decide by 1 October next year which foreign airlines should be blocked from flying to British airports.

It said airlines and travel agents must give a "millennium bug health warning" to those booking holidays for the 2000

cautiously, saying the MPs were in danger of "going over the top". The Association of British Travel Agents said many of its members had already printed warnings in their brochures. A spokeswoman warned against making it mandatory. "That might be a little bit too strong," she said.

caused by a failure of comput- preparing for the millennium. ers, which identify the year only by its last two digits, to who chairs the committee, de-

The problem is acute in the croprocessors on aircraft, air traffic control, traffic lights and ships and because of the enor- be told the truth." mity of the implications if it

The Commons committee was alarmed by evidence that is a "safety-related risk". Yesmany Third World countries not heard of the problem.
It seems certain that some airlines and airports, and some

Transport Correspondent

countries' air traffic control systems, will fail to be millennium compliant. Such failures will pose a risk to passengers' safety, and will lead to delays.

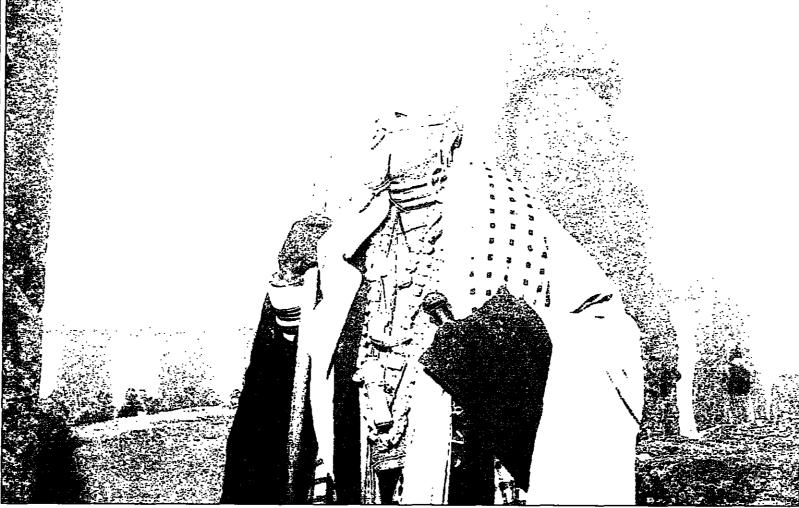
The committee said it was could be blocked from flying to the UK, but "we remain concerned about the possible dangers faced by British aircraft overseas, and British passengers travelling abroad.

Howard Davies, secretary general of the British Air Transport Association, said it was still unclear whether there was The travel industry reacted a problem. "The concern I have is that if you actually suggest there might be a problem, people will be convinced there is a problem. It is a little over the top until we know the nature of the

The International Air Transport Association said yesterday passengers need have no fears about computer failure, as air-The millennium bug is lines were spending £1.4bn But Gwyneth Dunwoody,

"Everyone has a right to transport sector both because take a decision based on senof the widespread use of mi-sible information and we are not sure. Whilst there is an element of doubt, people ought to

> British Airways has already announced that it will not fly to a destination if it believes there terday a spokeswoman said it would reveal early in the new year which airports it would be using over the 2000 new year.



Primitive' worshipper Lebaaba OlDinyo Laetoli travelled to Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain for the winter solstice yesterday with other spiritual followers and druids

Iona mourns a lost son and three missing victims of boat tragedy

swered questions lashed the island of Iona in equal measure boating accident victims.

More than 300 people packed into Iona Abbey for yesterday's service for Robert Hay, the only one of the drowned men whose body has yet been recovered. Among the mourners was Gordon Grant, the ac-

cident's sole survivor. "Why were four young people so central to the life of this island taken from us so suddenly?" asked the Rev Peter Millar, a friend of Mr Hay's fam-

BITING WINDS and unan- BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ily, who took the service in the

he spoke for the entire is land. Eleven days have passed they returned in the early hours from a dance on neighbouring Mull; eleven days of persistent, frustrated searching for any trace of the other three men.

The families of the victims had insisted yesterday's service was for Mr Hay rather than a memorial for all those who died. But it was difficult for thoughts not to turn also to Logie MacFadyen, Alisdair

whose bodies remain unfound. people around the world will be-ple and their eight sons lie. For their families the 11 days of searching have been desperate.

Troese days on lona, so close to Christmas, seem so unsince the five men capsized as real. Days pass but the markers of our ordinary life seem far away," said Mr Millar. "Our emotions and our spirits are overwhelmed in the face of such enormous grief."

He went on: "Although healing will slowly come to our broken community, for generations to come the events of the night of 13 December will be retold

many times. "This tragedy which has

Dougal and David Kirkpatrick, touched the lives of so many come part of the folklore of our

> Inside the abbey the congregation sang the hymns song "Fields of Athenry". As the service progressed Mr Miliar went to comfort Mr Hay's parents, John and Mary.

Outside the wind had not let up and it howled as six pall bearers shouldered their load and paced into the graveyard, cramped with the remains of Scottish kings, sailors lost in action and generations of is-

Mr Millar said Mr Hay would lie in a gravevard which over the centuries had welcomed "crofters and kings". His fam-"Morning Has Broken" and the ily and friends would have to make do with memories of his "laughter and life, friendship and warm heart".

And finally among the terrible black gloom, Mr Millar spoke of the future. "These four young men were committed to this community," he said. "And we owe it to them not to give in to total despair but to move on in hope as a landers. One large inscribed community."

Last UK tin mine set to reopen

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

EUROPE'S LAST tin mine, South Crofty in Cornwall, is set to be reopened next year by a mining entrepreneur, it was announced yesterday.

Wilf Hughes, managing director of Hughes Mining and Construction, yesterday disclosed that he had bought the mine for £625,000 after agreeing a deal with David Giddings, South Crofty's managing director and major shareholder.

The 140-year-old mine, near Redruth, closed in March with the loss of 300 jobs after it had fallen victim to the collapsing world tin price. The final nail in the coffin had been the Government's refusal to support a £12m rescue package.

News of the mine's reprieve will come as a psychological boost to Britain's poorest couny where unemployment levels ire well above average. Many local miners believed the closure of the mine, which is now flooded, was the final chapter n the county's mining history.

Mr Hughes said vesterday he was "confident" that the deal would go through and "put Cornish tin back in the world market". Speaking in Truro, he added: "We have studied the geology, we are changing working practices and we think we know we can make it a success."

Mr Hughes said he wanted to eventually reach previous levels of employment and said that around 25 men would be employed almost immediately. He estimated it could cost more than £1m to pump out the 2,600ft mine which has flooded to a depth of around 800ft.

Mr Hughes, who is expecting contracts to be exchanged next week, said the deal should be completed by the end of March.

Candy Atherton, the Labour MP for Falmouth & Camborne who helped broker the deal, said yesterday: "If it comes off it will be absolutely wonderful."

Before the tin price collapsed in 1985, South Crofty employed

Illness kills boy who endured two bone marrow transplants

SHYS DANIELS, the boy who BY JEREMY LAURANCE and two bone marrow transplants in an attempt to cure him of a fatal inherited disease, has

The six-year-old, who had the genetic disorder Batten's disease, became known nationally because of his parents' efforts to save his life. Barry and Carmen Daniels, who have a daughter, Charly, aged nine, with the same condition, fought to obtain the best treatment for Daniel, which led them to challenge the previous government in the High Court.

Last September, as the conditions of both children deteri-Arated, they announced that further painful treatment and two and his parents believed

aquele murder

ose inquest

to: 3 soutce

the next time they contracted a serious illness they would be allowed to die. They said they believed Rhys and Charly had suffered enough.

Yesterday, a friend of the family said the paarents were too upset to speak about the loss. "Rhys passed away last night and they are coming to terms with it," she said.

Batten's disease is a metabolic disorder which takes hold at about the age of three and progressively causes blindness. dementia and immobility, and usually kills sufferers by the age they would not subject them to of 10. Rhys was diagnosed at

radical treatment might save him. Despite two transplants his condition worsened in the past year till he was blind, confined to a wheelchair and had

to be fed through a tube.

Charly, who was diagnosed too late for treatment, is also now blind, unable to use her limbs and can no longer communicate. At the time of their announcement that they had given up the fight to save them, the Daniels signed forms saying that there should be no life support for the children. Speaking at the time, Barry Daniels said: "It was agonising, heartbreaking, dreadful, but we have to do what is best for our kids.

It is not a decision we ever

wanted to have to make ... But

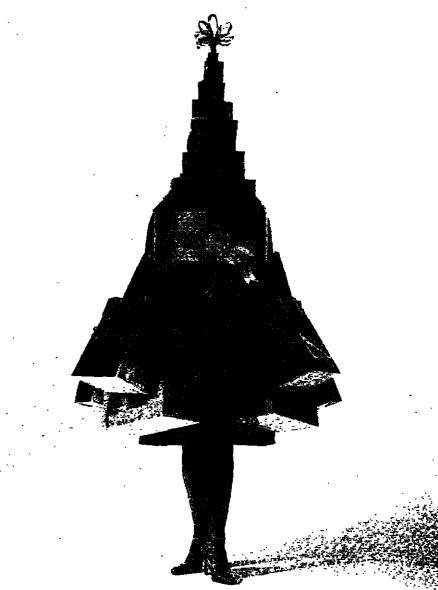
we have decided that when Rhys and Charly next fall ill or get an infection we don't want them being rushed to hospital and having needles and tubes stuck in them. We don't want them to be resuscitated. We want them here at home where we can soak them up in our love and let them die peacefully."

Rhys became the first child in the world to have a bone marrow transplant for Batten's disease after his father spent months persuading doctors to carry it out. Then Westminster Children's Hospital, where he was being treated, was closed and it took further months of searching to find a hospital prepared to carry out the surgery. The Daniels chal-

sion to close the Westminster hospital in the High Court which concluded that the decision had cost Rhys "valuable, perhaps vital, time". The transplant was finally conducted at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children. It failed, and so did a second, leaving Rhys prone to infections.

Mr Daniels, who founded a charity to raise money for sufferers of the disease for which he now works full time, said he had never regretted the treatment Rhys had endured because it might have worked. "You don't know until you try it," he said. The couple has a second daughter, Bliss, almost two,

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HEAL'S WINTER SALE

STARTS MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Ross replaces Norman. And why not?



'fantastically exciting'

BARRY NORMAN had a leather armchair Jonathan Ross, unveiled by the BBC yesterday as its chief film reviewer's suc-

cessor, gets a black sofa. And why not? The former presenter of The Lost Resort has beaten off a sisted huskiness

strong challenge from Mariella Frostrup, who presented The Little Picture Show on ITV, to land what almost everyone considers the best job in television. The new series, Film 99, begins next spring.

The final decision was made by Peter Salmon, controller of BBC1, after watching pilot

By Rhys Williams

shows featuring Mr Ross and Ms Frostrup in a clash of vocal idiosyncrasies - the former's difficulty with the letter "R" against the latter's cigarette as-

It is understood approaches were also made to Johnny Vaughan, presenter of Channel 4's Big Breakfast and sometime celebrity interviewer, but they foundered after negotiations with his employer, Planet 24.

broadcaster Sky. As well as hiring a new pre-"It's a fantastically exciting senter and breaking up the uniformity of the old format way of entering the new year." Ross said yesterday, "knowing with more studio interviews, Mr

side watching movies.'

a three-year search by the BBC

for ways to refresh the film

show. The corporation was

happy to let Norman, who had

spent 26 years in the job, leave

gracefully. The opportunity fi-

nally presented itself in July

when he left for a lucrative con-

tract with the satellite television

that a large part of my week will Salmon is believed to be to involve me sitting on my backlooking at an earlier slot to help to broaden appeal. His appointment concludes At 38, Ross is practically an

elder statesman of light entertainment. After the groundbreaking The Last Resort, made by his production company Channel X, Ross went on to present Tonight With Jonathan Ross, Jonathan Ross Presents and Saturday Zoo. He even sat in for Terry Wogan on the veteran broadcaster's peaktime BBC1 chat-show and is seen once a year gamely attempting to revive the flagging Comedy Awards.

Pupils facing longer trips to school

MORE five-year-olds will have BY JUDITH JUDD to be bused to school because of the Government's class-size policy, according to a new survey of local authorities.

Officials say the number of five-year-olds forced to travel longer distances because their local schools are full will rise as ministers enforce the restriction of 30 on infant-class sizes.

A promise to reduce class sizes for five, six and sevenyear-olds was one of Labour's election pledges. Ministers have told local authorities that no one must be denied a place at a popular school as class sizes are reduced.

They are spending £60m this year and a further £560m over the next three years to allow popular schools to expand with extra buildings and more

But local authorities say the reality is more complicated. One London authority, Haringey, has told parents that their chances of obtaining a place at a popular school on appeal are likely to be reduced because of the class-size policy.

The survey of 32 English local authorities carried out by the National Union of Teachers challenges the Government's view that parental choice will not be affected by the class-size reductions.

More infant pupils will also be taught in mixed-age classes a practice that is unpopular sial among teachers. Inspectors does reduce to some extent

Education Editor

from the Office for Standards in Education said that mixed-age classes were more difficult to teach and might jeopardise the national literacy strategy.

The survey says building work to cope with bigger class sizes in the first authorities to already begun.

More teachers are also being employed but the survey suggests that, in at least one authority, many of these are not new teachers but those facing redundancy.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, said smaller classes would bring benefits to children's education. But he added: "Knowing the problems allows both local authorities and Government an opportunity to overcome them or limit their impact. One area for further work is examining the effect of the policy on the number of pupils in mixed-age classes."

About a quarter of children are already in mixed-aged classes, and Graham Lane, chairman of the Local Government Association's education committee, said: "There is no evidence that mixed-age teaching is harmful. Ofsted should end its opposition to it. By 2001 there will probably be very few infant classes of more than 30. It will be a major achievement. It is true that it

parental preference." Ministers say 140,000 children started school this term in smaller classes and 1,600 teachers have been employed.

David Willetts, Tory educa-tion spokesman, said: "We have sked the Government several times for an assurance that this policy will be delivered without reducing parental choice and without an increase in mixed-age classes. They have never given that guarantee and we know why ... The Government is imposing this policy without taking account of local circumstances."

■The Arts in schools and teacher training courses are being pushed out of the timetable by the Government's insistence that teachers concentrate on literacy and numeracy, says the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Primary schools are aban-

doning singing, only a small minority of 15-year-olds study music and teacher training institutions relegate the arts to brief taster courses, it says.

In a report, The Disappearing Arts?, the society says that one primary school in five plans to cut back music and the same number have already reduced singing. After 14, only 8 per cent of pupils take music, 19 per cent drama and 36 per cent art. A survey of 33 teacher train

ing institutions reveals that many are abandoning arts



Swan research officer Jenny Earle releasing Brockbank, a Bewick's swan which survived being shot in the face. into Rushy Pen lake at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust bird sanctuary in Slimbridge yesterday Barry Batchelor I these were mainstream causes.

Soapbox preacher Soper is dead

By Nicholas Schoon

LORD SOPER, one of Britain's best known and most popular churchmen, died at his London home yesterday.

The 95-year-old Labour peer had carried on with his open-air preaching, in the finest Methodist tradition, until three weeks ago, when a chest infection set in. He died sitting in his favourite chair, shortly after returning from hospital.

Tributes came from across the political spectrum last night, but they were from a world that the uncompromising preacher was finding more and more difficult to recognise. Lord Soper was a lifelong

pacifist whose final days were marked by British bombs falling on Iraq. And he was proud to call himself a socialist when much of the Labour Party's leadership had come to feel uneasy about the word. Tony Blair, the Prime Min-

ister, said: "Lord Soper was a fine Christian and a man of great integrity and principle. He spoke with both passion and conviction and won the respect of many, many people, even those who did not always agree with what he had to say." The Archbishop of Canter

bury, Dr George Carey, said: "As a teacher, prophet, evangelist and social reformer he stood firmly within the Methodist tradition but his gifts have endowed us all."

Much of his life was devoted to campaigning. He served as president of the League Against Cruel Sports and chaired the housing charity, Shelter, in the Seventies. He championed the ordination of women and rights for homosexuals long before

Call for 'grey tsar' to champion the elderly

THE ELDERLY should get By GLENDA COOPER their own "grey tsar" - a min- Social Affairs Correspondent ister to champion their cause and promote policy across govthe new year.

It will also call for a guarantee of free care for those in old age and a national commission to deal with what they see as inconsistent and poorquality care.

expected to be handed to the It is expected to say that a min-Government at the end of January, says there should be a division between "hotel" costs (accommodation) and nurs-

ernment departments, the would have to pay only for Royal Commission into care of their accommodation, reducing the elderly will recommend in the chances that they would be forced to sell the family home to pay for their care. The commission was set up

in December last year by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, who asked it to find a "fair and affordable" The draft report, which is way of funding long-term care. ister is needed to monitor the need for continuing change. A national care commission would also use benchmarks and a strengthened inspection This means that when peo- regime to deal with poor-



quality care in both private and council homes as well as ensuring that inequalities across the country are ironed out. "The care commission could look at standards at a wider level. It would be an allencompassing body," said the source.

The most radical part of

the package would be the guar- "hotel" costs, elderly people ready covered by the meanssavings of less than £10,000 have their nursing-home fees paid for by the state. Those with savings of up to £16,000 have to pay for part of the fees while those with higher savings pay the full cost. This has led

to many elderly people being forced to sell their homes. Under the commission's plans, hotel costs would remain means-tested but nursing and personal-care costs would be free whether a person is cared for in their own home or in a residential or nursing home.

antee of free care for the el- would be far less likely to lose test system. The result is that derly. Under the present all their assets, as can happen means-tested system, which is under the present system. According to a source close to the commission, the change would cost the Treasury between £800m and £1bn each year. Of this, £380m would be re-

quired as new money. "The rest is already in the system and would just need to be redistributed," said the source. The Treasury is not going to get whacked with a huge bill."

But a minority on the comof such an approach would be advantage are the better off, By having to pay only because the poorest are al-

there will be a "substantial minority report" - or at least a "strong note of dissent", when it is finally delivered.

A spokeswoman for the charity Age Concern said it had always argued that healthcare costs should be free for the elderly and added that it would like to see a commission with overriding responsibility for community standards. But she added that the charity mission believes that the cost would prefer to see the interministerial group taking refar too high. Added to that, sponsibility for old people those who would gain the most rather than one "grey tsar", which "could see old people la-

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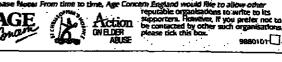
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IRAQ CRISIS

Divided UN looks again to its chief

tions Secretary-General, is expected to play the central role in attempting to end the deadlock gripping the UN Security Council after last week's 70hour war on Iraq by the United States and Britain and find a new approach towards ending sanctions imposed on

As the council resumed consultations on policy on Iraq vesterday with little sign that the divisions within it would easily be bridged, Russia was

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York

ment that would invite Mr Annan to take the initiative to try to find a way through the policy impasse. Sergey Lavrov. the Russian ambassador to the UN, was to meet Mr Annan last night to make a similar appeal for help.

Diplomats in New York warned, however, that it might be several weeks before a new consensus on Iraq could be reestablished in the badly fracpreparing to table a draft state-tured council. While there is still

President Saddam Hussein must be preventing from retaining or developing weapons of mass destruction, there are sharply diverging views on how that can be achieved.

Britain and the United States are lonely in the council in insisting that the dual approach towards Iraq of the last eight years remains valid. This would imply the return of Unscom, the UN special commission, and its weapons inspectors to Iraq and the maintenance of full economic sanctions until Iraq 6-

of all the proscribed weaponry. "We are not the most popular people here," one British source noted.

Most vexing is the future of Unscom and its chairman. Richard Butler Since the bombing, Iraq has repeatedly de-nounced Unscom and its chief and said it will no longer accept both the intrusions of its inspectors and the continuing sanctions. "Iraq cannot tolerate the embargo and Unscom." Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, said on Monday.

tralian UN ambassador, has come under fierce criticism from China and Russia, Both are pressing for his dismissal on the basis that the report he submitted last week, which triggered the strikes, unfairly characterised Iraqi work with inspectors. Britain and the US. however, have come to his support. Thomas Pickering, the US under-secretary of state, visited Mr Annan in New York to dissuade him from recom-

mending changes to Unscom or

saw last week's bombing campaign as a defeat for him personally and for his efforts to forestall violence in the Gulf, has been holding talks with a stream of diplomats from council member governments. He has also created a task force of advisers to consider new approaches to the Iraq conundrum. Leading the group is his under-secretary neral for arms control, Jayantha Dhanapala.

Aides to Mr Annan denied, however, that he was poised to interject proposals of his own

with all sides and is open to all shades of opinion to make sure that if there is any way of moving forward to an agreement he would able to help," one senior official remarked. "Different governments are peddling various formulas and we are listening very attentively".

Options may include dismantling Unscom and spinning of its functions to various bodies, such as the Haguebased Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. thing else. They have various France, meanwhile, has sug-

weapons inspections to longterm monitoring in Iraq and a relaxing of the sanctions regime to allow Iraq to import, under supervision, all the food and medicine it needs.

Yesterday, Mr Butler dismissed calls for his resignation as a "red herring". He added: "I ask you this: is it about me or a personality, or is it about substance? The substance is the disarmament of Irag. No one in the Security Council is saving any-



Graffiti on a 2,000lb laser-guided bomb waiting last week to be loaded on to a fighter jet for a United States air strike on Iraq. The Pentagon apologised yesterday, saying the scribbling was 'thoughtless', and there was 'no place for religious intolerance'

France supplied information to help air strikes

FRANCE CONTRIBUTED indirectly to the American and British air raids on Iraq. supplying aerial reconnaissance pictures that helped in the seection of targets.

The French flights, over southern Iraq, ended as soon as the attacks began last week, but the information - including electronic surveillance of antiaircraft sites - helped the Allies to prepare their four nights of attacks.

The limited French role, revealed yesterday in the newspaper Liberation, points to the delicately balanced approach adopted by Paris to the latest Iraqi crisis. Although France refused to play any direct part in the raids, it did not condemn them and it placed most of the blame for the US-British puni-

tive action on Saddam Hussein. This contrasts with a more overtly critical, almost pro-Iraqi, approach taken by French governments towards the floundering US policy in the region in the past four years. It also contrasts with the violent Iraq in recent days by all French newspapers and by all strands of political opinion in France, from the Communists to the National Front.

Yesterday. Paul Quilès, a selfish, commercial considera- mains in power.

By JOHN LICHFIELD

Socialist former defence minister, chairman of the defence committee in the National Assembly, and a confidant of the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, accused the US and Britain of trying to blow up the credibility of the United Nations Security Council, as well as strategic targets in Iraq.

Air raids could not police nuclear non-proliferation, he said, but they could mortally wound the prestige of the UN and its secretary-general and - if not opposed - set a ment and lack of response. precedent for unilateral US actions elsewhere.

are also extremely critical of the timing, motives and usefulness of the latest air attacks. They have also cast doubt on the neutrality of Richard Butler, the Iraqi people - a bigger stake in head of the UN inspection team.

But diplomats in Paris say the Jospin government - with backing from President embargo would have to be used Jacques Chirac - has decided condemnations of the raids on to adopt publicly a more balanced approach. The aim is to avoid falling into the trap of press as reflexively anti- envisages no solution in Iraq

tions. The Iraqi government has complained bitterly about its apparent desertion by Paris. which left Moscow as its only

heavyweight ally. Diplomats believe part of the strategy is to place France in a better position to play a positive role in the "after-raid" negotiations now going on at the UN. Both Britain and the US have been pleased with the lack of outright criticism from Paris. The French government hopes that, in return, they will be more ready to listen to its ideas about how to end the permanent Iraqi cycle of punish-

Paris wants Mr Butler's inspection team to be replaced by In private, French officials a less confrontational, permanent UN monitoring presence in Iraq. It is also pushing for a further easing of the oil embargo to give Iraq - and the co-operation with the international community. Revenues from such a relaxation of the to improve the daily lives of Iragis, not to build palaces or

weapons for Saddam Hussein. This runs counter to the US being cast in the Anglo-Saxon and British approach, which American and motivated by while President Saddam re-

MoD declares Tornado bomb raids a success

TORNADO bombers hit and destroyed three-quarters of their allotted targets in Operation Desert Fox, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

None of the bombs that missed hit civilian targets, the ministry said. Of the 35 missions planned for

the 12 British bombers between Thursday and Saturday last week, 32 actually took off and 28 completed their missions.

The figures were given at a battle damage assessment brief-3r cent, including more than 400 cruise missile attacks. Of these, 11 per cent hit the targets but inflicted only light damage.

"Clearly, we are very pleased with these results, which represent our current assessment of the combined American and British attacks," said Air Marshal John Day, deputy chief of the defence staff and director of operations. "Taken in isolation, the Royal Air Force's sucBY JOHN DAVISON

cess rate matches these overall statistics."

Of the 11 targets given to the RAF by operational planners from the total of 100, six involved Iraqi air defences, two were against command and control facilities, a further two against the Republican Guard and one

Questioned on the subject of

airfield was also attacked. This was at Talill, where

Saddam Hussein was developing his L29 programme of uning, which gave a hit rate of 85 manned planes designed to spray chemical and biological weapons. A picture taken hours after this attack showed the hangar destroyed.

civilian casualties, officials said no assessment had been carried out because only the Iraqis would have any figures and those could not be trusted. One of the criteria by which targets had been selected was on the risk of such "collateral

damage" and only military sites had been attacked. Some deaths among civilian staff would, however, have been inevitable.

"We deeply regret any loss of civilian life, but we believe we have been successful in keeping civilian casualties and collateral damage to a minimum," said Air Marshal Day. "As far as we know, there were no weapons which struck civilian targets. None of the weapons which failed to hit their intended targets hit civilian targets."

The operation had succeeded across the range of aims, he said. These included damage to President Saddam's ability to produce and repair ballistic missiles, which would take at least a year to rebuild, and damage to air defences, which would take years to rebuild. The raids had also set back his biological and chemical weapons programme, and hit

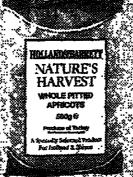
charge of these facilities. Together the raids had reduced President Saddam's ability to threaten his neighbours and left him vulnerable to further military action by the West.

"As a consequence of our attacks on his military capability, and particularly on those forces closely associated with his weapons of mass destruction concealment programme, those close to Saddam will realise that we have the ability and the will to target the regime, as distinct from the Iraqi people," said Air Marshal Day.

Iraq said yesterday Western war planes fired two rockets near the southern city of Basra in the first military action since the air strikes, but the US and Britain denied it.

lraq said four formations of planes violated a demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait early yesterday. Hours later five formations returned and the Republican Guard units in fired two rockets near Basra.

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Carey backs the use of force

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury backed the Government yesterday over its decision to bomb Iraq, describing the mili-

tary action as "a sad necessity". Dr George Carey rejected the World Council of Churches' (WCC) opinion that the allies' attack was "a profoundly cynical act" and said that those who believed the bombing was wrong had failed to come up with a "satisfactory solution".

Asked if he thought the bombing was necessary. Dr Carey told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "I do not know what alternatives there were when Saddam Hussein refused to allow inspectors in to look at these factories which were capable of producing chemical weapons.

I am not a politician, all we wis the evidence given to those who actually believe that for all Christian churches".



this is wrong ... haven't produced a satisfactory solution to say what other alternatives were possible."

He added that it was time to look forward. "What we must try to do is to help the suffering Iraqi people," he said. "People often forget that in the Middle East and in Iraq there are Christian communities as well."

The WCC, an independent body with 332 member churches, has condemned the bombing of Iraq. At the weekend the Pope was critical of the attacks. saying that war would never be an appropriate way to solve international problems.

Dr Carey - who has chosen the theme of "security and insecurity" for his Christmas Day sermon - insisted yesterday us by the UN and others, so that the WWC "does not speak



Dr George Carey: Strikes re 'a sad necessity'

In an interview to be broadcast on 25 December by the World Service, he says that 1998 has been a very deeply insecure year for many people. "Just think of ... Hurricane

Mitch, leaving so many people dead and homeless; you think of

He repeats that he is not a politician, but is kept informed about world affairs by the Foreign Secretary. "When you are a religious leader you must try to influence affairs behind the scenes ... the use of force must only be a last resort."

Bangladesh and the flooding; you think of the trouble in the

Middle East, in Palestine, and

the recent bombings in Iraq."

■ Dr Carey named the former Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas Cranmer, author of the Book of Common Prayer, as his choice in the Today programme poll for personality of the millennium. "Next year we will be celebrating the 450th anniversary of the 1549 Book of Common Prayer and what the [book] has done for the English language is quite amazing," he said. "It has enriched our language, we owe

so much to it. We owe so much

to Thomas Cranmer."

Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims wrangle over Jews' holy book

are engaged in an ill-tempered Balkan state's holiest and most fragile treasures, the sixthcentury Haggadah.

brought to Sarajevo after the Jews were expelled from Spain in the more tolerant atmosphere of Bosnia, then a "vilayet", or province, of the make up about a third of

struggle over one of the Ottoman empire. Since then a Jewish community speaking Ladino, akin to medieval Spanish, lived in harmony with the The Jewish sacred book was city's mostly Muslim population until the Bosnian war of the 1990s, after which most Bosnin 1492 and received sanctuary ian Jews quit the ruins for

Now the Bosnian Serbs, who

ritory, want a third share in the treasure. They are not asking for a literal division of the book, which would mean tearing out more than 30 of the 109 pages, but a third ownership, meaning that it would spend a third of its time in the Bosnian Serb metropolis of Banja Luka in

Bosnia's North-west. The Sarajevo Haggadah has the state's antiquity, its multi- returned to the city. cultural traditions and, in some ways, of the nation's survival.

In the Second World War the Nazi occupiers of Yuhunt down the Haggadah, which was smuggled out of the

Bosnia's population but control won an important place in the nearly half the republic's territory want a third shore in the control won an important place in the Sarajevo museum in the nick of briefly for display in the 500th tion, is reported as saying that time by the museum's Croat anniversary celebrations of the manuscript ought to remain the nick of anniversary celebrations of the manuscript ought to remain the nick of anniversary celebrations of the manuscript ought to remain the nick of anniversary celebrations of the manuscript ought to remain the nick of the nick of the manuscript ought to remain the nick of the ni cent decades, a significance and Muslim curators and hid-city's Jewish community in that transcends the book's lit- den in the hills until the war was 1993. eral value. It is an emblem of over After liberation in 1945 it

> When Sarajevo was besieged by the Bosnian Serbs in 1992 and the museum was bombarded, the Haggadah was regoslavia made great efforts to moved under shellfire and hidden in the vaults of the National Bank, being brought out

Thus, at a time when Bosnia's Jewish community is but a shadow of its former self, the city's most famous Jewish text has, ironically, never been more famous or more sought

Jakob Finci, the head of the Jewish Community organisa-

in the capital, principally because Bosnia's Christian communities, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats, showed such scant respect for their rival's cultural and religious monuments. "They [the Serbs] blew

century mosque blown up by

Ottoman bridge in the southern city of Mostar blown up by the Croats. The two buildings were among Bosnia's greatest architectural treasures.

"Now, everybody wants his own museum," Mr Finci added, "The Haggadah is proof of the up the Ferhadija, the others multi-ethnicity in Bosnia. It is blew up the Old Bridge," Mr a testament that even in worst Finci said, referring to the 16th- of times, other [people's] values were not destroyed."

Rift hits Likud's election chances

A SENIOR member of Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud, Dan Meridor, jumped ship yes terday and announced that he would campaign against the Israeli Prime Minister at the head of a new centrist party.

Other defections are exhumiliating parliamentary defeat on Monday night. During the session the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, voted for early elections and rejected the tough terms set by the government for continuing the Wye peace accord with the

The Likud leader is being assailed from both right and left in his seven-party coalition, by those who will never forgive him for signing the Wye deal in October with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and by those who condemn him for halting it before the ink was dry.

Mr Meridor, who resigned as Mr Netanyahu's finance minister 18 months ago, told revesterday: country is in a serious crisis. diplomatically, economically, socially, morally and, most important, from the point of view of leadership."

The 51-year-old lawyer en-tered Likud politics 20 years ago as a protege of the party's founding father, Menachem

He insisted that Mr Netanyahu had to be replaced but saw no chance of unseating him within the Likud.

Mr Meridor is expected to join forces with General Amnon Shahak, who retired earlier this year as Israel's chief of

They will decide nearer polling day which of them has the better chance of winning the premiership. Although he has not yet announced his programme, General Shahak is leading the field in early surveys of public opinion.

Two members of Mr Netanyahu's Cabinet - the dovish Defence Minister, Yitzhak By Eric Silver in Jerusalem

Communications Minister, Limor Livnat - are hinting that they will try to topple the Prime Minister from within the Likud. Uzi Landau, a hardpected after Mr Netanyahu's line senior backbencher, is preparing to join them.

Mr Netanyahu's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, joined the attack on the Prime Minister, accusing him yesterday of destroying the party.

At the same time Menachem Begin's son, Benny, is planning to leave the Likud and launch a party to challenge Mr Netanyahu from the right.

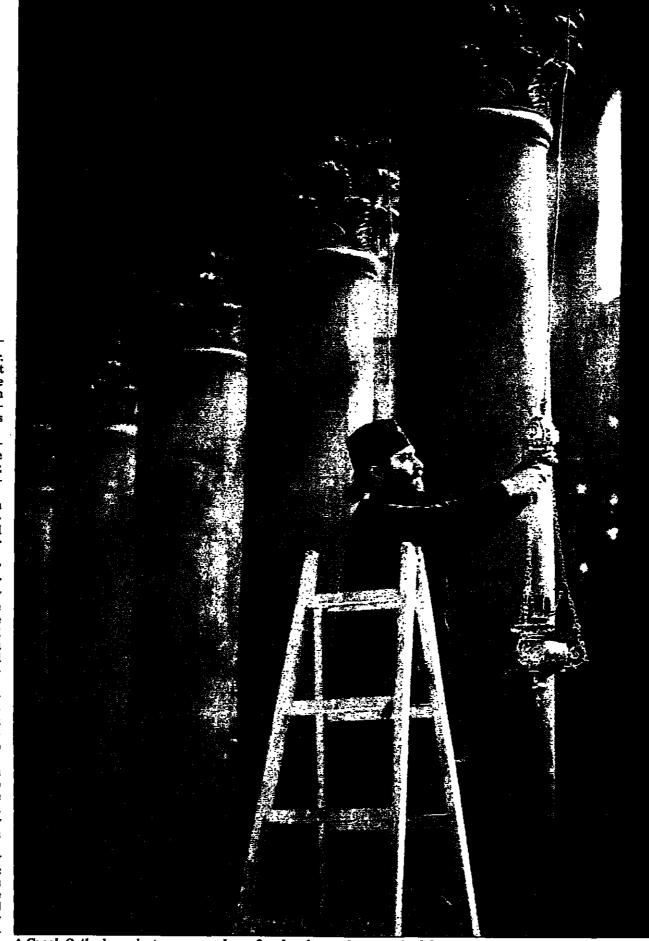
"There is an urgent need," the former science minister explained, "for a political body that would represent those many people who were the most enthusiastic and loyal supporters of Mr Netanyahu in the last elections and [who] feel today that they have been totally betrayed."

terviews a chastened Mr Netanyahu said that he would put his faith in the "silent majority" who had elected him two vears ago.

"I have no doubt that when we start the race, the 150,000 to 200.000 Likud voters will give me massive support," he said. They know very well that only I, at the head of the Likud, can lead the country." Polls published yesterday

suggest, however, that public confidence in Mr Netanyahu is slipping. In a straight fight, the Labour opposition leader, Ehud Barak, leads Mr Netanyahu by 44 per cent to 40, while Mr Shahak enjoys a 13-point advantage (49-36). Apart from the crisis over the peace process, the Likud's working-class voters are angry about rising inflation, running at an annual rate of 9 per cent, a shrinking jobs market and under-funded social

Israeli commentators are almost united in dismissing Mr Mordechai, and the hawkish Netanyahu's chances of victo-



A Greek Orthodox priest removes a lamp for cleaning at the Church of the Nativity in Betblehem

ry. "Last night he left the Knesset beaten, humiliated, disgraced, friendless, without allies, with no one having a good word to say about him," the Maariv tabloid newspaper said

"People who only a few weeks ago described him as un-

a political corpse." The media were reluctant, however, to write his political obituary at such an early stage of a contest that may stretch into the spring.

Mr Netanyahu is a resourceful, aggressive campaigner who proved his mettle against the odds during the last beatable speak of him today as election. The freeze on the

peace process caused by the election is drawing bitter protests from the Palestinians, who call the political turmoil an internal Israeli affair and insist that Israel is still bound to the Wye accord, just as it is to other pre-existing internation-

al agreements. "It's really unfortunate that

the only thing that Mr Netanyahu has decided to stop is the peace process with us," said the chief Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat. "I think this is a very grave development."

The elections are likely to take place by the end of April.

Palestinians ponder UDI

Peace drive

in limbo as

in Israel has simplified no one's life in the Middle East conflict. least of all that of Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian president must decide whether to declare statehood in May, as he has so often promised, or delay the move and risk a fresh explosion of frustration among his people. which would only play into the hands of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Last night reaction in the Arab world to the collapse of Mr Netanyahu's government was conspicuous by its absence. It reflects one of two things: uncertainty over what will come after the detested Mr Netanyahu, or despair that arything can now resurrect the so-called peace process.

Israel's implementation of the two-month-old land-forpeace deal in Wye, Maryland, stands suspended until the Palestinians have fulfilled a raft of new conditions imposed by the outgoing Prime Minister to placate his right wing.

That was not changed by yesterday's meaningless statement from Jerusalem that it is ready to proceed with implementation of Wye even during the campaign, assuming the Palestinians go along with their end of a "bargain" unilaterally

In reality, everything is frozen after Palestinian rejection of the demands set out on Sunday by the Likud-led Cabinet: abandonment of the right to declare their own state, the surrender of their claims to Jerusalem, an end to violence. and acknowledgement that Mr Netanyahu had not after all agreed to set free Palestinians

jailed for murder. An election date will be set next week but Palestinians assume Mr Netanyahu will try to hold it in late April, as near as possible to the 4 May deadline imposed by the 1993 Oslo accords for a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement, which makes that day the trigger for a possible unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state on the West

Bank and Gaza Strip. "May 4 is a sacred date." said Nabil Abu Rdainah, a close aide of the Palestinian president. "Nothing can stop us declaring a state on that date, and Leading article. the Israeli elections should not Review, page 3 be used to delay implementa-

THE CALLING of early elections BY RUPERT CORNWELL

tion of the agreement." In truth, delay is inevitable.

The risk therefore is that the Palestinians, who have already taken violently to the streets in protest at Mr Netanyahu's refusal to implement the Wye terms, will do so again. This would provide new grist for the his tough security platform, just as his razor-thin victory over the Labour leader, Shimon Peres, was probably clinched by Palestinian suicide bombings in early 1996.

The overriding hope of the Palestinians, the Arab world, and the Clinton administration is victory for Ehud Barak's Labour party or the moderate Amnon Shahak, a former chief of staff who has not even announced he will be a candidate.



Netanyahu: Violence may well play into his hands

but, according to polls, would trounce Mr Netanyahu in a head-to-head direct election. This could see a centrist-Labour coalition that might resuscitate the "peace process".

While Mr Netanyahu vows to annex land around Jewish set tlements on the West Bank and in areas he deems vital for Israel's security if Mr Arafat crosses the Rubicon of statehood on 4 May, Mr Barak has not tipped his hand.

But yesterday he warned Mr Arafat not to declare a state without having negotiated security arrangements beforehand. Nor would Israel tolerate a Palestinian army, the division of Jerusalem or a return to the country's original borders be-

fore the Six-Day War of 1967. Even a new government in Jerusalem will not therefore bring the final settlement much

Explosive end to crematorium

A FRENCH court ordered an 82year-old widow to pay £13,000 to a crematorium that was wrecked when a heart pacemaker exploded during the cremation of her husband's

The deceased man's doctor was ordered to pay another £26,000 in damages for failing to warn the crematorium that the body contained the device. Experts told the court, in Grenoble, that the chemicals in

the pacemaker's battery exploded with the force of two grams of TNT - enough to fire a 16lb artillery shell at a speed of 60mph. The furnace at the crematorium, at Gières, near Grenoble, was extensively

damaged by the blast. The widow signed a form on which she was asked whether there was a pacemaker in her husband's body. She ticked the box that said "No", even though the device had been fitted only eight months earlier. The doctor did not check whether a pacemaker was in place.

After six years of legal wrangling, the court decided both were negligent but took into account the age and emotional state of the widow at the time. She was ordered to pay one-third of the damages and the doctor - who has since retired - two-thirds.

KEN LIVINGSTONE



Short-term, manipulative. divisive – Netanyahu is a natural for the White House

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

Retirement move ends in stabbing A MAN in Hamond, Indiana, was charged with stabbing his wife because she was "not in the Christmas spirit" during their move to a retirement home. Police said William Fagyas, 82, and his wife, Eleanor, 84, were "tired" from the stress of packing for the move. World's first octuplets 'stable'

THE WORLD'S first surviving octuplets were in a critical but stable condition in a Texas hospital last night. Their mother. Nkem Chukwu, 27, bore the six girls and two boys after taking fertility drugs. One child was born naturally on December 8, the remainder by Caesarean on Sunday.

IN BRIEF

Quarter of Bolivian coca destroyed

PRESIDENT HUGO Banzer said Bolivia eradicated nearly

an important step in taking Bolivia out of the cocaine trafficking circle." Mr Banzer said at a news conference in

eastern Chapare, where most of the coca leaf is cultivated.

Yeltsin upbeat despite crime rise

PRESIDENT BORIS Yeltsin declared "Russia is on the up"

at a Kremlin award ceremony yesterday - though with

crisis, it was difficult to see much progress. Mr Yeltsin

urged his interior minister to "keep up the fight" after

new data showed a sharp rise in serious crime this year.

the news of a rise in crime since August's economic

a quarter of its coca fields during the past year in his efforts to end the country's production of cocaine. "This is

Bulgaria's former king returns

BULGARIA'S FORMER king arrived in Sofia yesterday to celebrate Christmas in his homeland for the first time in 52 years. Earlier this year. King Simeon II. 61, reclaimed Czarska Bistritsa palace, 40 miles south of Sofia, after the high court reversed communist palace nationalisations.

Mitchell to head inquiry into Olympic city sleaze

to announce a new inquiry last night into allegations that bribes were used to win the 2002 Winter Olympics for Salt lake

There have been allegations that "scholarships", free medical treatment and gifts of shotguns and skis were given to members of the International Olympic Committee to ensure that the Utah state capital won the rights to host the games.

The US Olympic Committee announced its own investigation into the affair yesterday, to be led by former Senator George Mitchell, fresh from his role in the Northern Ireland peace negotiations.

Mr Mitchell is chairman of the USOC's Ethics Oversight Committee. He expects to report to the USOC by the end of February Although his inquiry lacks subpoena powers, Mr Mitchell said it would delve quickly into records supplied by the Sait Lake Organizing Committee and any evidence of criminal wrongdoing would be

THE UNITED STATES was set BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

turned over to prosecutors. An investigation by the US Justice Department was also expected to be announced last night.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, has already scheduled a special meeting of his executive board for late next month to discuss the allegations, and the SLOC's ethics committee is also investigating the issue.

"The integrity of the Olympic Movement is central to the USOC's mission and its ability to maintain credibility with the American people and all those who support the nation's Olympic movement," said the USOC president, Bill Hybl.

We want to ensure American athletes the chance to realise their goals and dreams. For those and other compelling reasons, the USOC must respond quickly and credibly to the allegations and issues." he

In a sign that for once there



Juan Antonio Samaranch: Looking into allegations

may be some serious efforts to investigate the allegations, the games' corporate sponsors have expressed their anger about the affair.

The telecommunications company US West, which is an important sponsor of the 2002 games, is furious that its name has been dragged into the scandal. The company has asked the Salt Lake Organizing Committee President, Frank Joklik, to "clarify what has transpired

and what actions the Olympic movement is taking to address. these issues" Coca-Cola has also ex-

pressed its concerns to the 10C, "and they assured us they will take swift and decisive action, and we will monitor them to ensure that," said Ben Deutch, a spokesman for the company.

Robert Helmick, who re signed from the IOC and the UŠOC presidency in 1991 after he was accused of a conflict of interest, said it was common for sweeteners to be offered to IOC members. There are "several IOC members who control blocks of votes [and] are willing to deliver them for extravagant gifts and favours," he

The allegations have not centred on Salt Lake City offi-cials but on "agents" who help to broker support.
The scandal started when at

IOC official, Marc Hodler, said some cities were offering bribes to win the right to host the

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January. The back to 1981 t were only wo an abortive bi received earli Shareholders net asset valu shee less ap Other small t

follow suit.



Allies split over banana war

ONCE AGAIN, it is war Just By Andrew Marshall days after the United States ceased its attacks on Iraq, it has plunged into another conflict. the voyages of discovery in the one where the stakes may be just as high, though the casualty count will be lower.

This war is not concerned with weapons of mass destruction, but with bananas. The US says that the European Union discriminates against imports from American companies; but there is no right and wrong in the banana war, just various shades of grey (or rather, yellow). On Monday, the US announced projected sanctions against a long schedule of European exports. with Britain at the top of the list, and if there is no resolution in the next two months sanctions will

The dispute has its roots in

in Washington

17th century, when Britain and France both picked up clutches of Caribbean islands as colonies. When those colonies became independent, Paris and London maintained preferential trade links and special regimes for importing fruit. However, US companies became dominant in the formerly Spanish colonies in Central and South America, often maintaining their position by supporting violent military regimes. They sold mainly to the US, and their exports are known as "dollar bananas".

When the Common Market was formed in Europe, Britain and France maintained special

links with the Caribbean banana producers, while Germany and other countries kept their own free-trade regimes. A special protocol was added to the 1957 Treaty of Rome, ensuring that amid the drive to create a single market, bananas were excluded.

That became a frequent cause of conflict with the US, which contended its companies were being excluded from the European market. Only in the 1990s did the EU try to harmonise its rules. But the US argued that the resulting trade regime still discriminates against its companies, which export bananas from Central America. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreed, and the EU has revised its rules - but not by enough to satisfy the US. ular the Big Banana itself,

The EU likes to portray itself as a great benefactor, saying that the Caribbean nations need the support they get from banana exports. In fact, the reason for protecting imports from these countries is that they are largely made by European companies. Though the British banana company Geest was bought by Fyffes, the Irish company, Britain continues to side

and the companies linked to them. So Britain finds itself in a group with southern European countries resisting the pursuit of free trade, when it would normally be siding with Germany and the free-traders. The rival Central American bananas are exported by Amer-

ican companies, and in partic-

with the Caribbean countries

Cincinnati-based Chiquita, Carl Lindner, Chiquita's boss, has made hefty donations to both political parties, which means Washington takes the dispute seriously.

The US has threatened sanctions on \$600m (£365m) of EU imports, mainly luxury goods. All may face 100 per cent duties if the dispute is not settled. The US sanctions are aimed at opening up a divide within the EU (the so-called "banana split"), by targeting the southern Europeans and avoiding the Netherlands and Denmark, which oppose the new banana regime. Britain and Italy would be hardest hit, with exports of about \$100m at risk. followed by France and Germany. The duties would apply

The EU wants the deal settled in the WTO, and accuses Washington of ignoring global laws. It sees the conflict as a symbol of US unilateralism, not dissimilar to the claims that America ignored the United Nations during its attacks on Iraq. "The EU will play by the rulebook of the WTO. which rules out unilateral sanctions," said Nigel Gardner, spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan,

EU trade commissioner. The US says the EU is itself ignoring what the WTO has already ruled, and that taking the case back to the WTO will simply absorb more time.

If previous EU-US trade spats are anything to go by. the end result will a last-minute compromise. In between, there will be a growing campaign of

New hope for Clinton in Senate

SUBTLE CHANGES of position by a key Democratic senator and a group of influential Republicans fuelled speculation yesterday that President Bill Clinton might be able to avoid a trial in the Senate.

The reports came as poll ratings and stock markets remained unmoved by the President's predicament and the Clintons pursued their business-as-usual round of meetings and partying.

Potentially the most significant development was a statement by Senator Robert Byrd. a Democrat from West Virzinia, who intimated that the Senate might be open to a compromise and that the Constitution would allow it. He is respected by politicians on both sides as an authority on the history of the Senate and a guardian of the Constitution.

He said: "Whether there is a trial or whether there is some other solution, that decision must be made by senators and it must be bipartisan or it will have absolutely no credibility with the public." His reference to the possibility of "some other solution" and his call for "bipartisanship" seemed to open ever so slightly a door that had seemed tightly shut. Sticklers for constitutional purity had maintained hitherto that a trial, at least the opening of a trial. was the inevitable consequence of a House vote to impeach.

While Mr Byrd also insisted the decision should rest entirely with the Senate and warned others, specifically the White House, against trying to make deals, the White House appeared pleased. A spokesman agreed that

"the best solution for this matter would be made by senators. and on a bipartisan basis" and expressed the hope "that such a resolution can be reached expeditiously, so that we can get back to the business of the country as soon as possible".

Soon after Mr Byrd's statement, four Republican representatives who on Saturday had voted to impeach Mr Clinton published a letter clarifying ir intent. They had voted

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

impeach, they said, because "we believe that the President lied under oath and that such conduct was serious enough to merit impeachment and con-

sideration by the Senate". But, they went on, in what must have been music to the ears of the White House: "We are not convinced and do not want our votes interpreted to mean that we view removal from office as the only reasonable conclusion to this case", and they called for "strong censure as a remedy". All four were among the so-called "moderate" Republicans whom the



Bill Clinton: Still hopeful of escaping with a censure

White House had tried, and mostly failed, to win over before the vote. Their letter lent support to the view that some House Republicans, perhaps even a majority, regarded their vote as a vote to indict, not convict, the President, confident that the Senate would not vote to remove him. It was unclear whether their letter was intended purely as clarification. or whether it reflected fears that the requisite two-thirds of senators might, in the end. vote to remove Mr Clinton from

Despite these hopeful signals, however, the White House made clear it was leaving nothing to chance and was working simultaneously on two tracks: sounding out support in the Senate, and preparing the

All the Finns want from Santa is a mobile phone

CONSTA AND SELMA, 12 and 11 years old respectively, are everything you expect Nordic youth to be: fair-haired, blueeyed poster children for the healthy outdoor life. And what do these two young Finns want for Christmas? New skis perhaps, or some computer games? Not a bit of it. These days, in the homeland of Santa Claus, a pre-teen is nothing without a mobile phone.

"You promised, Daddy," runs the living room lament as this unwitting foreigner brings up the subject. "You promised, everyone at school has one." On closer interrogation that proves an exaggeration - the true proportion is about one in three but, in a sense, Consta and Selma are right. Statistics show that pretty soon there'll be as many mobiles (some five million) as there are Finns.

And that's only the half of it. For Finns are into mobile phones with the same zeal they once reserved for saving their country from the Swedes

The gadget has transformed the national image, too. Weren't the Finns supposed to be a taciturn, vodkasodden bunch, speaking an impenetrable language, producing lots of fish and timber, but mainly notable for winning the Monte Carlo rally each and every year?

Breathe the word Finland to the technologically enlightened these days, and their eyes mist over at the thought of sleek little mobiles that can practically think, and a million twinkling internet screens lighting up the Arctic night.

Not surprisingly Nokia, the Finnish company that has just overtaken Motorola to become the world's biggest manufacturer of mobile phones, has become as virile a symbol of national pride as the Winter War against the Russians imost 60 years ago.

Speak the words "mobile phone" to a Finn, and a broad, **EUROPEAN TIMES**



There are nearly as many mobiles as there are Finns

Why should the cutting

edge of IT have descended

among these dark northern

forests in the first place? Some

say it is precisely because of

this wilderness that Finns

have more mobile phones,

and more internet users, per

head than any country in the

world. How else are they to

keep in touch across their vast, underpopulated land?

lie to the Firms' view of them-

selves. They do like to talk, but

the Helsinki bus, of citizens

who would not dream of pass-

ing the time of day with the

person in the next seat, but

whose reveries are constantly

mobiles ringing around them.

not face-to-face.

In fact, the phone gives the

Thus the peculiar world of

slow smile will spread across his face, as if to say, "You didn't think we were up to that sort of thing, did you?"

Nokia is Finland's General Motors: As with GM and America, what's good for one is good for the other. The company generates, on its own, a third of Finland's annual economic growth; its shares account for half the trading on the Helsinki stock exchange and Jorma Ollila, Nokia's president, was recently voted the second most powerful person in the country; it was probably only the Finns' respect for democracy that kept the Prime Minister at number one. Which is fine, but God help Finland if the mobile phone market ever disturbed by a carillon of

attractive, aggressively marketed of this year's Christmas advertisements in Finnish papers and on TV at least half seem to be for mobiles) and transparently priced. Unlike Britain, where the unit is cheap and the costs, if you're not careful, can be crip-

And there is a more prosaic

consideration. Phones are

pling, you know what you're getting in Finland. You pay up front - sometimes £100 or more ~ for the "terminal," as the companies like to call it, but barely above fixed line ates per unit.

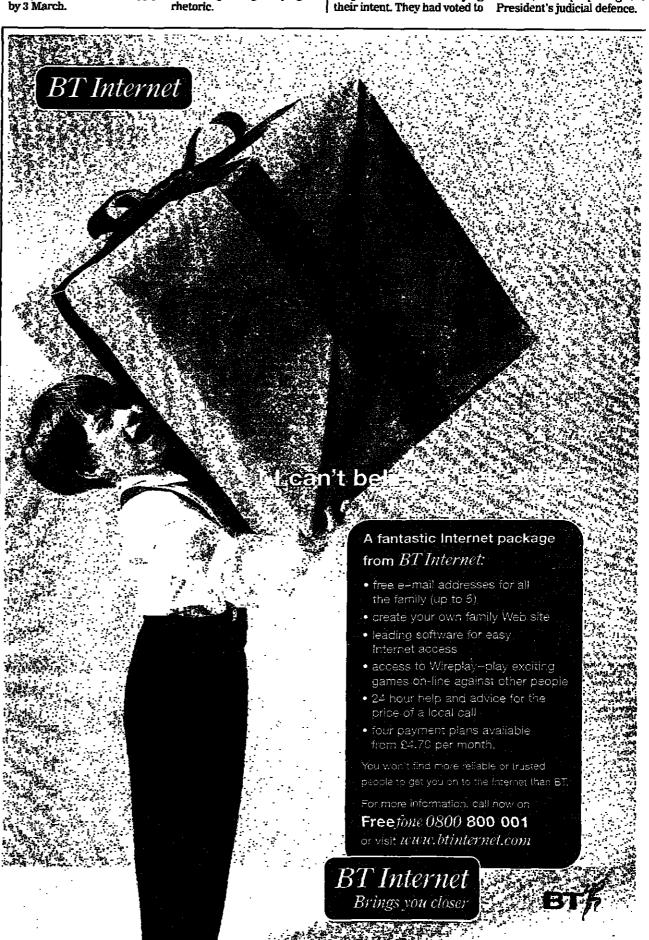
Even so, how do you sell more phones in a country where everyone already has one? Children of course are part of the answer. You give them "Citiphones" which won't work outside the Helsinki area and which cut off after, say, 100 markka (£12). More importantly, you persuade people they need not one but several mobiles.

A top executive of Sonera the Finnish equivalent of BT. expounded the doctrine to me thus: "People want to work in a flexible way. That means one mobile like a palm-sized laptop, hooked up to webservers and so on. Then a carphone, then a smart phone for handling e-mail and the rest and finally a small handy one for weekends."

The mobile, in short, is Finland's entrant in the race for the electronic future, where the telephone, the computer and the television are fused into one. In 2004, the Sonera man told me, the third generation of mobiles would be launched, with full video services. Already, open-out mobiles that offer a keyboard and connection to the Internet are widespread. Consta and Selma of course won't be get-

But next year, if not this Santa will surely have a mobile for them in his sack.

ting one of those. RUPERT CORNWELL



BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Vision accepts £23.3m bid

VISION, the digital camera chip maker, vesterday succumbed to pressure from STMicroelectronics after the European semiconductor giant launched a £23.3m bid. The cash offer, which has been accepted by Vision's management, is pitched at 62p a share – two-thirds of the price at which Vision floated in April 1995. Peter Denyer. managing director of Vision, said that being part of STMicroelectronics would give the company access to better manufacturing facilities and would would allow Vision to target a wider market for its products.

Post Office profits fall 14%



PROFITS at the Post Office fell by 14 per cent in the first half of the financial year, reflecting a freeze on postage prices and increased competition. In the six months to the end of September, pre-tax profits slipped to £283m from £329m – the first fall in four years. The drop was entirely due to the Royal Mail, where profits dropped to £218m from £303m in the

same period last year. Post Office Counters profits trebled to £25m while losses at ParcelForce were steady at £17m. The Post Office, whose chairman is Neville Bain (pictured), is to be given more commercial freedom but will not be privatised. It has also pledged not to raise its prices before April 1999.

ICI sells £34m chemical businesses ICI ANNOUNCED the sale of a string of non-core chemicals

businesses to Shell Chemicals yesterday, for an estimated 234m, the third disposal it has made in less than a month. ICI is selling its interests in the distribution of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and propylene glycols - chemicals used to make detergents, brake fluids, polyester and polyurethane – based in Wilton, Teesside. It is also selling a

plant which makes ethylene oxide but will continue to operate it on Shell's behalf.

NTL buys telecoms stake

NTL, THE US-OWNED cable group which earlier this week emerged as a possible bidder for Newcastle United FC, yesterday bought the telecoms division of Eastern Group, the electricity utility, for £91m. The business. which consists of a 1,800-kilometre fibre-optic network across the East and South-east of England and 121 mobile phone masts in East Anglia, was put up for sale after Eastern decided it was peripheral to its business of distributing electricity and running power stations.

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FTSE 250	4763.30	20.40	0.43	5970 <u>9</u> 0	4247.60	4.85
FTSE 350	2748.60	-11.40	-0.41	2969.10	2210.40	3.46
FTSE All Share	2649,67	-9.92	-0.37	2886.52	2143.53	3.51
FTSE SmallCap	2031.60	9.10	0.45	2793.80	1834.40	4.14
FTSE Fledgling	1126.00	1.40	0.12	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE A/M	791.50	-1.30	-0.16	1146.90	761.30	0.00
FTSE EBLOC 100	970.11	5.49	0.57			
Dow Jones	9003,01	14.16	0.16	9380.70	7400.30	1.66
Nikkel	13779.45	-373.50	-2.64	17352.95	12787.90	1.06
Hang Seng	10322,56	-73.45	-0.71	11926.16	6544.79	3,02
Dax	4825.38	44.45	0.93	6217.83	3833.71	1,77

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US	5.25	-0 66	5.06	-0.91	4.67		5.11	
Japan	0.52	-0.21	0.57	-0.15	1.94	0.02	2.61	0.07
Germany	3.31	-0.40	3.18	-0.79	3.94	-1.31	4.83	-1.02
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D-Mark	2,8086		2.9743	D-Mark	1.6746		1.7987
Yen	195.98		215.94	Yen	116.84		130.58
£ index	101.20	+0.00	104.70	\$ Index	105.00	0.00	108.70

	OT	OTHER		DI	CAT	O F		
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Brent Oil (S) 978	0.33	16.93	GDP	115.40	3,00	112.04	Dec
Gold (\$)	287.15	-1.80	291.65	RPI	164.40	3,00	159.61	Dec
	4.00	0.00	6.65	Ω	D-1	6 35	3.35	

.bloomberg.com/uk	SOURCE:	BLOOMBERG

www.bloomberg	.com/uk	SOURCE: BLOOMBE		
TC	URIS	TRATES		
Australia (S) Austria (schillings)	2.6352 19.15	Mexican (nuevo peso) Netherlands (guilders)	14.9 3.074	
Belgium (francs)	56.35	New Zealand (\$)	3.095	
Canada (5)	2.5380	Norway (krone)	12.5	
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8048	Portugal (escudos)	278.2	
Denmark (krone)	10.43	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.124	
Finland (markka)	8.3120	Singapore (\$)	2.6534	
France (francs)	9.1493	Spain (pesetas)	231.7	
Germany (marks)	2.7377	South Africa (rands)	9.557	
Greece (drachma)	459.19	Sweden (krone)	13.11	
Hong Kong (\$)	12.62	Switzerland (francs)	2.225	
ireland (punts)	1,0963	Thalland (bahts)	55.60	
Indian (rupees)	64,26	Turkey (Ilrasi)	49965	
Israel (shekeis)	6.5018	USA (S)	1.641	
Italy (lira)	2714			
Japan (yen)	192.66	Rates for indication purpo	ses only	
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1242			
Malta (Kra)	0.6107	Source: Thomas Cook		

GEC puts £4bn Marcon1 defence arm up for sale

sign over its £4bn Marconi defence electronics arm by inviting rival European and American defence contractors to bid for the business.

But the German group Daimler Chrysler Aerospace immediately warned that if this resulted in a merger between British Aerospace and Marconi, then it would place a "major obstacle" in the path of wider Eu-ropean defence industry consolidation.

In a Stock Exchange statecided to separate its Marconi ecutive of GEC, is thought to

By MICHAEL HARRISON

division from its civil businesses, which include telecoms, industrial electronics and a minority holding in Alstom.

GEC said the decision, taken at a board meeting on Monday, was designed to enable it to exploit the growth potential of its The statement said separa-

tion could take one of several forms. Marconi could be hived off into an enlarged aerospace business or demerged. But the ment GEC said that it had de-strategy Lord Simpson, chief ex-

Analysts suggest Marconi could be worth £8bn to £10bn. It accounted for about £4bn of GEC's £10bn turnover last year but almost half of its operating profits of £954m and the vast

bulk of its £15bn order book. Dasa, which suspended merger talks with BAe last week, said it noted GEC's announcement with interest but warned: "Priority must first be given to horizontal European defence industry restructuring instead of national vertical integration. If this priority is re-

favour is a straight bid for the alised [the separation of Marconi] will be a valuable contribution to successful European restructuring. If not it could be a serious obstacle."

Manfred Bischoff, the Dasa chairman, supports an eventual three-way alliance between BAe, Dasa and GEC. However, he regards it as critically important that a BAe-Dasa merger comes first in order to make the deal politically acceptable in

There are fears that if Dasa is swallowed up by a combined BAe-Marconi, then Germany would be at a disadvantage in

was brought in at a later stage, it would still mean a dilution of the German shareholding in the enlarged group but Dasa would be better placed to dictate the terms on which Marconi

greater influence over industrial decision making, which will be crucial in determining where job cuts will fall. A merger of either BAe and Dasa or BAe and Marconi would yield savings of £300m a year.

GEC said that the decision to hive off Marconi did not suggest

the enlarged group. If Marconi it was more likely to merge the business with BAe than an American defence contractor. GEC has been linked with both Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin.

Nor is it clear whether Lord Simpson would remain with the It would also give Dasa a rump of GEC or join the enlarged defence business. GEC's wholly-owned civil businesses include the telecoms arm GPL Picker, which manufactures medical imaging equipment, the US petrol pump supplier Gilbarco, and the weighing machines company Avery Berkel.

Outlook, page 11

Ladbroke sells Coral for £390m

yesterday put an end to the three-month race for Coral with the £390m sale of the UK's third ture capitalist Morgan Grenfell

The deal with Morgan Grencapital arm of Deutsche Bank, for the 827 Coral shops and two greyhound racing tracks will net Ladbroke a profit of around in Barking.

hotel and gaming group, which is to retain Coral shops in Ire- and trade buyers. land and Jersey valued at £26m, was well above City expectations and triggered a sharp rise in the company's share price. Lad-

The leisure group was forced into a fire sale of the outlets in September after the Government blocked its £363m purchase of Coral from the brewing giant Bass on competition grounds. The authorities argued that Coral would have given Ladbroke, Britain's biggest bookmaker a dominant position in the £1bn a year UK betting market.

Morgan Grenfell said yesterday that it wanted to boost Coral's returns and was planning to float the chain in threeto-five years' time.

John Macintosh, an associate director at the venture capitalist, said that his company would upgrade Coral's IT systems and boost its telephone betting fa-

LADBROKE, the leisure group, BY FRANCESCO GUEBRERA

cilities. It would also refurbish some of the shops in a bid to largest bookmaker to the ven- make them more modern and women-friendly.

Mr Macintosh said there was fell Private Equity, the venture scope for savings in head office costs but added that there were no "current plans" for redundancies at Coral's headquarters

Morgan Grenfell emerged The price received by the as the winner after a hotly-contested bid battle with financial

The group outbid rival financial group Cinven's £360m offer in the last round, after Stanley Leisure and the Tote, the two broke shares ended 13p higher industry bidders, had dropped out in earlier stages. The Tote's offer, at £375m, was higher than Ladbroke rejected it because it feared a referral to the competition authorities.

Mr Macintosh denied that his company had overpaid for the Coral assets, which are valued at £337m. "Coral is a really strong brand name and it makes the best profits margins in the business," he said.

He added that around £250m of the total consideration would be funded through senior debt and, possibly, the issue of a junk bond. The remaining £140m would come from internal funds. Securitisation - the issue of a high-yield bond backed by the shops' cash flow - was not on the



William Hill saddles up for float

tion of William Hill, the UK's second largest bookmaker, in a deal worth up to a £1bn, writes Francesco Guerrera.

The listing will surprise many City analysts as it comes just over a year after the financial house bought the 1,530 William Hill shops for £700m from the ailing leisure group Brent Walker.

Nomura recently said that it was looking at spinning off

NOMURA, the Japanese bank, is gearing up for a January flotation of William Hill, the UK's have brought the flotation for they cautioned that it could be ward to exploit the recent bull run in the London stock market.

The Japanese bank is working with its advisers Warburg Dillon Read and Deutsche Bank to whip up investors' interest in the float. The companies declined to

comment vesterday but insiders said that the listing was likely to take place towards the end of January to give Nomura time to £1.5bn, controls around 17 per

called off if the market was to suffer a sharp downturn.

Shares in William Hill are expected to attract considerable interest from small investors. City institutions will also be keen to build up a presence in one of the country's largest bookmakers

William Hill, which last year

hind Ladbroke's 22 per cent. It is also the largest player in the fast-growing telephone betting

sector, with a 42 per cent share.

The disposal of William His. will be a landmark in Nomura's recent history. The bookie was part of an ambitious string of acquisitions by the bank's Principal Finance unit, headed by Guy Hands, which included thousands of pubs, the rolling had a turnover of more than stock company Angel Train and

Wall's faces fourth MMC inquiry into ice cream sales Green's fresh 340p bid

UK ICE CREAM manufacturers are to face a fourth full-scale investigation of their business practices by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. it was announced yesterday.

John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, said there appeared to be insufficient competition in the industry, which is dominated by Birds Eye Wall's. Mr Bridgeman said: "Over-

which requires a thorough and wide-ranging review."
The MMC will only look at the market for impulse ice

immediate consumption - in

By LEA PATERSON Unilever Group, has a market

share of almost 70 per cent. The commission will focus on the issue of freezer exclusivity

 when a manufacturer provides a freezer to a retailer on the condition that it is used only for the manufacturer's products. Mars, which entered the UK ice cream market 10 years ago. said: "Mars' progress in the all this is a problematic sector impulse market has been severely hampered by aggressive anti-competitive practices."

Iain Ferguson, Wall's chairman, said: "We see little point cream - ice cream bought for in an inquiry at this time. Wall's has achieved its position in the which Wall's, part of the ice cream market through in-

novation, market forces and fair competition and is not behaving anti-competitively."

The industry was given a clean bill of health by the MMC after an inquiry in 1979 and again in 1993/94. In 1997/98 the MMC investi-

gated the relationship between Birds Eye Wall's and its wholesalers, and published a report last summer which the MMC said had raised "wider concerns", including the issue of freezer exclusivity. The new inquiry, which will

last nine months, had been widely anticipated by the City, and shares in Unilever rose

Embattled Sears rejects

imously rejected a 340p a share offer from Philip Green, the entrepreneur, insisting that the bid does not reflect the value of the embattled retail group.

THE BOARD of Sears has unan-

Rea Brothers, the investment bank advising Mr Green. wrote to Sears' board on Monday suggesting that Medinbond, Mr Green's takeover vehicle, was prepared to raise its original 300p a share bid by 40p a share. However, after holding a telephone board meeting. Sears rebuffed the approach, which would have

valued the company at £520m. As in the first approach, which was made earlier this Outlook, page 11 | month, Mr Green's offer was

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

conditional on a recommenda. tion from Sears' board and the group allowing him to carry out due diligence. However, Mr Green had scaled back the amount of due diligence he wanted to carry out.

Mr Green said he was "disappointed" that Sears had denied him "limited access" to its accounts. "Denial of the access requested cannot possibly be in the best interest of Sears shareholders," he said.

Mr Green, who has the backing of a number of private investors including Tom Hunter, the founder of Sports Division is now expected to wait until

Sears issues its Christmas trading update on January 13 before deciding whether to renew his offer.

Sears pointed out that the approach did not amount to a formal offer and that it did not do justice to the value of the company. What's more, the retailer suspects that Mr Green would seek to drive down the offer price if he was given access to its books.

PDFM and M&G, the fund management groups who are Sears' major shareholders, are believed to be prepared to support a 340p a share cash bid if Mr Green launches a formal offer Sears shares closed up 1p

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AFTER AN early gain Footsie fell back, closing 33.2 points lower at 5,843.3. Although the undertone remained optimistic, weakness in the Tokyo market took its toll. Supporting shares were again in positive territory with the mid cap

index gaining 20.4 to 4,763.3. Ladbroke was the top performing Footsie constituent, gaining 13p to 238p following the £390m sale of its Coral betting shops. Colt Telecom, likely to be named share of the year, rose 37.5p to a new peak of 956.5p. Derek Pain, page 13

NEW YORK

MOST SHARES began drifting lower in afternoon trading but further gains in leading shares had edged the Dow Jones index 17 points higher to break through the 9,000 line by midday, ahead of the FOMC meeting on

Merck, IBM, and Proctor & Gamble were all firmer, but the S&P 500 index was barely steady. Nasdaq, with its strength in hitech stocks, was down on the morning trading after another record closing high on Monday.

TOKYO

THE JAPANESE stock market suffered another grim trading session after the Japanese government withdrew support from the bond market, putting further pressure on shares. The Nikkei 225 index closed 373.5 points lower at 13,779.45.

Only 355 million shares changed hands, but banks suffered heavily. Fuji Bank fell 28 to 411 yen and Mitsubishi Trust shed 45 to 758 ven. Construction shares also suffered with Taisei down 16 at 206 yen, Car stocks also weakened.

PARIS

THE CAC-40 index ended 17.06 higher at 3,820.47 although turnover was quiet with traders reluctant to buy in francs and settle in euros in January.

France Telecom rose 0.35 per cent to 428.90 francs in heavy trading after the telecom's regulator set a 14.4 per cent cut in prices for rivals to use the FT network. Drinks group Remy. Cointreau fell back almost 10 per cent, reversing a 15 per cent rise on Monday inspired by profit up-

MILAN

ITALIAN SHARES closed higher in quiet trading with gains led by bargain-hunters in second-line stocks and helped by the prospect of a further cut in Italian interest rates into line with the new euro-stan-

The Mibtel index ended 84 higher at 22,733. Bank shares closed off their highs and Banca di Roma ended eight lower at 2,711. Telecom five better at 13,950 after the regulator announced new price curbs.

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Simple solution to the ice-cream wars

THE MONOPOLIES and Mergers Commission (MMC) obviously likes ice-cream but it would like a few more flavours to chose from than just Walls. The industry was referred to the MMC yesterday for the fourth time since 1979.

Yet again, the thorny issue of freezer exclusivity - where a manufacturer provides retailers with freezers on the condition that only the manufacturer's products be stocked - will be central to the investigation. Mars, the industry's newest entrant and the main opponent of freezer exclusivity has argued that the practice severely inhibits competition in the so-called "impulse" ice cream market.

Many small newsagents and corner shops already have a freezer owned by Walls – the dominant industry player with 60 per cent plus of the market - and so stock only Walls' products. This freezes out the

Walls argues that it is unfair to allow rivals to display products for free in a freezer which is wholly paid



OUTLOOK

Walls could get round this problem by charging other manufacturers for the right to display their products in Walls' freezers.

The simplest solution is to ban freezer exclusivity. Where it does not operate in the large supermarkets, competition is vibrant, Walls has a far smaller market share and consumers have a wider choice.

To avoid another MMC reference the practice of freezer exclusivity should be outlawed once and for all. for and maintained by Walls. But Related practices such as full-line

forcing - where a manufacturer agrees to provide a retailer with a freezer as long as it also takes the full range of the manufacturer's products - should also be banned. There are many other solutions to the problem of freezer provision which don't involve ripping the cus-

Defence

THE GAME of psychological warfare being played out among Europe's defence contractors advanced on a new front yesterday. GEC put its prize piece of artillery, Marconi, up for auction whereupon the Panzer division of Germany's Daimler Chrysler Aerospace (Dasa) promptly occupied Lord Simpson's lawn. Meanwhile, British Aerospace which appears to control

vas maintaining radio silence. The consolidation of Europe's defence industry is a big enough challenge on its own. But with the politicians leading, like World War

most of the important bridgeheads.

to merge with Dasa until GEC wakes up to the threat of being left in the cold and muscles in. BAe says it likes the look of Marconi but it does not much fancy its ugly sisters (Hotpoint washing machines, Gilbarco petrol pumps etc). GEC says it will hive off Marconi into a stand alone suitor.

Dasa's tanks start rolling. It warns that a BAe-Marconi merger could mean the death-knell for wider European defence restructuring. Dasa adds, however, that if it merges with BAe first, then it will happily bring Marconi under its wing at a later date, on German terms of course.

A Christmas truce ensues. The warring factions emerge from their trenches to look out on no man's land. Someone has even brought along a football. Hostilities resume in the New Year.

As a means of maximising value for GEC shareholders, putting Marconi up for sale is an interesting ma-

One generals from the back, it is made even more difficult.

The war story so far BAe is about US suitor, say Lockheed, should RATHER AGAINST to the story state of the back, it is nocurre. The prospect of a BAe bid should underpin the price. But if a US suitor, say Lockheed, should RATHER AGAINST to the back, it is nocurre. The prospect of a BAe bid should underpin the price. But if a US suitor, say Lockheed, should RATHER AGAINST to the back, it is nocurre. The prospect of a BAe bid should underpin the price. But if a US suitor, say Lockheed, should underpin the price. enter the fray, then there is only up-

> The problem lies with the politics. The British and German governments want a cross-border solution, ideally a trilateral one that features BAe, Dasa and GEC.

But Dasa fears that if it is seen to be a minority partner without any great say about who gets the work and who loses the jobs, then it will net be politically palatable.

A BAe/Dasa alliance would be presented as a merger of equals even though the equity split would be 60:40 in Britain's favour). With the inclusion of Marconi Germany's shareholding would slip to perhaps 25 per cent, which would leave the Germans too ex-

It is hard to believe that at this late stage. Europe's defence industry will allow itself to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. But as many a commander has discovered, war is an uncertain business.

RATHER AGAINST the odds, Ladbroke's Peter George, has ridden a winner with the sale of the Coral betting shop chain to the Germanowned Morgan Grenfell Private Equity. When he was blocked from keeping the business after having paid Bass such a full price, his card looked well and truly marked. Not only did the Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson order a complete divestment, he gave Ladhroke only six months to conclude a deal and stipulated that Coral could not be sold

From this inauspicious starting point, Mr George has succeeded in selling the business for a 10 per cent premium. The extra £33m he has raised more than covers the interest costs Ladbroke has borne during the 12 months that it has been stabling the business. On top of that Ladbroke has pocketed £40m of profit from Coral during its 12 months of ownership...

The question is what does Mr

leading bookmaker, further expansion here has aiready been ruled out nor does Ladbroke appear interested in entering the US betting market. That leaves the other main leg of the business, hotels. In Europe, there are not many opportunities on the horizon. In the US there are more possibilities. The difficulty is that Ladbroke already has a relationship with Hilton in the US through its ownership of the brand outside the US. Going into direct competition with Hilton in its own backyard may not be a sensible move when the theory is to bring the two halves of the Hilton empire closer together

Mr George could do the radical thing and hand the cash back to shareholders. Companies are often loathe to do that since it smacks of the management having run out of ideas. But Mr George might take a tip from Nomura which owns the William Hill chain. Just as one foreign owned bank is entering the betting market. Normura is cashing in its chips by floating William Hill and George do with the cash. As the UK's recycling the cash.

Crisis fears as Japanese bonds dive

JAPANESE BONDS plunged By LEA PATERSON yesterday, raising fears of a new financial crisis in the region, after the Ministry of Finance said it would stop buying government bonds in the new

Trade in Japanese government bonds (JGBs) was halted following a sharp fall in prices, the first time this has happened in more than a decade. Yields surged by almost 40 basis points, the biggest-ever

one day rise.

The Japanese bond market has been unsettled for several weeks, after the government's decision to finance a £110hn fiscal rescue package by bond sales sparked fears of chronic over-supply in the market governor of the Bank of Japan, who said the trust fund bureau

of the Ministry of Finance, which holds a third of all government bonds, would cease



Masaru Hayami: Bond purchases to be stopped

Mr Hayami also hinted that the Bank of Japan, the second largest holder of JGBs, could scale back its activity in the

Nick Stamenkovic, chief economist at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures, said: "The bubble has burst in the JGB market. Japan's fiscal position is dire. The government has abandoned its committment to reduce its budget deficit, and is pulling out all the stops to turn the economy

The sell-off hit the yen, which fell sharply against the dollar, and prompted renewed Yesterday's falls were trig- worries about the health of

> Japanese banks, along with the BoJ and the Ministry of Finance, are the major holders of

Bank shares tumbled in Tokyo yesterday on concerns that the banks' exposure to the bond market could under mine further their financial

The fall in bank shares dragged the Japanese benchmark Nikkei index down 373.5 points to close at 13,779.45.

The bond market turmoil in Japan spilled over into Europe, where bond prices fell sharply and yields rose.

Mr Stamenkovic said the falls in the European bond markets were simply "a knee ierk reaction" to the difficulties

It's no surprise that people dream about owning a ThinkPad 600. To begin with there's its head-turning appearance - stylish, elegant, sleek, a classic piece of modern design. Then there's the sophisticated technology. With Intel's fastest processor, a huge hard drive and CD-ROM capability, it has to be one of the most desirable mobile business tools around. Now comes the opportunity to make your dream a reality. Buy any one of the new selected ThinkPad 600 models and we'll give you £250 cash back. So, isn't it time you stopped dreaming? All you need to do is buy a selected ThinkPad model, send us a completed claim form and you'll receive £250. For more details on the promotion, visit **www.ibm.com/pc/uk/tppromot** or call Tanya Proud on 0870 601 0137 in Ireland phone 1850 22 00 33.

(*e*) e-business tools



Fed and ECB leave key rates unchanged

BOTH THE US Federal Re- By LEA PATERSON serve and the European Central Bank left key interest rates unchanged yesterday, as policy-makers paused for breath after recent aggressive rate

The Dow Jones slipped lower after the Fed said there would be no change in either its funds rate or its discount rate, currently at 4.75 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively.

The Fed has cut rates three times over the last three months in an attempt to calm the world's nervous financial Meanwhile in Frankfurt,

Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president who earlier this month co-ordinated a surprise cut in European rates, said he saw no immediate need for further rate reductions.

As expected, the ECB set its initial benchmark interest rate for the countries which will adopt the euro in January at

Mr Duisenberg said: "This should be seen as a clear in-and Germany yesterday re-con that the ECB does not vealed further sharp falls in want to give any signal for factory gate prices on the further easing in the fore-

seeable future." However, Mi Duisenberg did announce temporary changes to two other European interest rates, a move designed to inject liquidity into the banking system during the first few weeks of the euro's life. The rate changes should help eliminate volatility in the financial markets.

Between 4 January and 21 January, the ECB's emergency borrowing rate will be 3.25 per cent and its deposit rate will be 2.75 per cent. After 21 January these rates will change to 4 per cent and 2 per cent respec-

Sharda Persaud at Paribas said: "This is an ultra-cautious move by the European Central Bank, which is a little worried about volatility in the market at the beginning of the year. It's probably not really necessary, it's simply a precautionary step."

Data released in France









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Cautious Christmas cheer for retailers

HOPES OF a late festive buying spree, plus the feeling that many retailers and other Christmas-sensitive shares were over-sold, produced a string of modest gains as the rest of the stock market paused for breath.

Marks & Spencer led the revival with an 11.75p gain to 408.5p. EMI, with the Spice Girls again a Christmas hit, spun 10.75p higher to 400.75p.

However the two Footsie constituents have suffered humiliating falls from grace. Marks, mauled lately by a series of profit downgradings, was 619p earlier this year, and EMI, where trading has been far from ebullient, touched 607p.

The cautious Christmas cheer spread to Boots, up 13p to 1.040p; JJB Sports, 16p to 222.5p, and Next, 13p to 476p. Even Flying Flowers, down from nearly 600p after

AVAILEON, which is emerging as an upmarket contract caterer, has won a fiveyear extension to its Elstree film studios contract and a new 12year contract at the Royal Pump Rooms.

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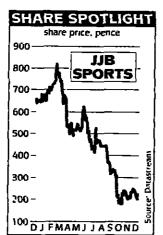
Leamington Spa Another major contract is expected to be awarded next month. But winning the new business is expected to hit results for the year to end March: there was a £442,000 loss last year. The shares held at 2.5p.

a surprise summer profit warning, managed to blossom following tidings of good cheer. The mail order and marketing group said festive flower sales were higher than last year and its other core businesses were performing in line with expectations. The shares rose 17p to 187.5p.

Footsie this week, went to yet higher at 4,763.3 and the another peak, gaining 29.5p to small cap 9.1 at 2,031.6. 821.5p although SG Securities made cautious noises sug- pect blue chips to make fur- DaimlerChrysler group. The SEAQ TRADES: 51,535

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN



ahead of the game: it put "fair value" at 770p. The electrical group has, in the eyes of many, taken on a new image - offering a chance to play on the Internet.

But Kingfisher, which like Dixons has resisted the retail gloom, eased 3.5p to 637.5p as the long-time bulls Henderson Crosthwaite adopted a more cautious stance.

Footsie, after Monday's surge, fell 33.2 points to 5,843.3, ruffled by Tokyo's retreat. But there is a conviction that blue chips will again enjoy a Christmas romp and the setback was due to buyers holding off, hoping to skim some of the froth from the market.

Supporting shares were dragged up on the coat tails of Monday's exuberance, with Dixons, which returned to the mid cap index 20.4 points

Many fund managers ex-

Turnover (£)

4.17m (2.29m) 49.76m (46.42m)

Contract

Long Gilt

COMPANY RESULTS

118 16

Pre-tax (£)

0.302m (0.179m)

6.22m (5.37m)

-0.665m (0.215m)

117.94

year-end but warns that trading conditions could be volatile, with Footsie probably moving between 6,500 and

will fall to 5 per cent. leader board with a 13p gain to 2380 following the £390m sale of its Coral betting shops chain to Deutsche Bank.

peak of 956.5p. The fledgling, still loss-making telephony group seems set to achieve the distinction of being the best performing share of the year - a highly unusual accolade for a Footsie con-

British Petroleum fell 12p to 378.5p despite transatlantic rumours that the merger with Amoco could be cleared today by the US authorities. Diageo, the spirits giant,

had an active session, ending 1.5p (after 16p) lower at 693p. Once again stories flowed that LVMH, the French luxury goods group, planned to sell all, or some, of its 10.84 per cent stake, worth some £2.5bn. But the French group this time round issued a denial. It said: "Even if this stake is not strategic in the long term ... LVMH has no intention of selling it immediately."

The belief is that LVMH will want to cash in to buy the Sanofi beauty products activities, although debt finance could plug any short term

General Electric Co lost 18.5p to 537.5p after causing yet more turbulence in the seemingly endless round of European defence alliance discussions by saying it intends to break itself into two splitting its civil businesses from its aerospace and defence activities.

British Aerospace slipped 4p to 527p. It had been seen as a possible GEC partner although it has held long running talks with the German gesting the shares had run ther progress next year. GEC action could encourage

-1.08p (-0.44p)

117.92 200.00

David Rough at Legal & General is looking for 6,300 at the could then emerge as a global could then emerge as a global defence consolidation programme.

Sears, rejecting the latest Philip Green embrace, was 5,200. He believes base rates little changed at 262p. Avon Rubber bounced

Ladbroke, the betting and 17.5p to 555p after rebuffing hotel group, led the Footsie an approach last week and said was not in talks: Hiscox. a Lloyd's underwriter, rose 22.5p to 170p as the US group Chubb acquired 27 per cent at Colt Telecom moved 225p. The brick-maker ahead 37.5p, bitting another Ibstock, after CRH's teatime raid, gained 12p to 69p.

Profit warnings continued to appear. Haynes Publishing fell 17.5p to 185p and Jacobs did its chance of taking over Nightfreight no good at all by cautioning that profits would be below market estimates at around £8.25m. The shares fell 6.5p to 52p. A cautious trading statement from English China Clays

CARLISLE, the new Michael Ashcroft vehicle. held at 19p after, as expected, unloading its property interests. The £14.5m realised will go towards developing its support services, which currently include contract cleaning, staff recruitment and security services. With a capitalisation of

£210m Carlisle, expected to adopt an acquisitive policy, is the biggest company on AIM. Mr Ashcroft formerly ran ADT and is treasurer of the Tory Party.

clipped 3p from the shares at

Informa, the result of the merger between LLP the Lloyd's List publisher, and IBC, traded at 258p after touching 294p. The auctioneer Sotheby's,

a narrow and volatile market. jumped 285p to 1,440p, a peak. It appeared that only 500 shares were traded at 1,175p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 750.6 million

Pay day

31 03 99

1239

- (-) 0.57p (0.48p)

431.00

Aluminium HG

GILTS INDEX: 114.95 -0.37

22.02.99

1240 8.00 1249

INDUSTRIAL METALS

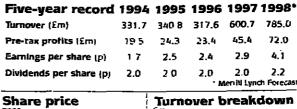
Pre-tax profits (£m) 2.4 2.9 Earnings per share (p) 1 7 2.0 Dividends per share (p) 2.0

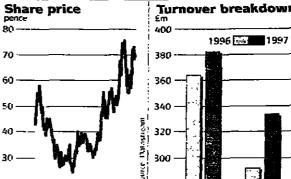
AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES: AT A GLANCE

Investment: Acquisition follows collapse of talks with Tarmac

Aggregate adds to US

stake with \$53m buy





Massachussets, where it con- Blue Circle of the UK, Lafarge trols around 30 per cent of the market for heavy materials.

Mr Tom claimed that after the integration of Bill Smith which last year posted a profit of \$4m on turnover of \$15.8m around half of the group's sales and earnings would come from the US.

Aggregate's focus on the US market mirrors the actions per cent rise over the next six taken by several rivals. Companies such as Hanson and gravel used in road construction. to follow suit.

of France and the Irish giant CRH have been expanding in

buoyant American market. The driver behind the US boom is a \$216bn roadbuilding programme recently approved by Congress. Experts estimate the plan will translate into a 46 years in demand for sand and

the US. in a bid to offset flagging

domestic sales through the

with Merrill Lynch, said that this rise in demand would prove a major boost for the earnings of the UK producers with a US presence. "This is not a boom and bust scenario. These are rolling programmes and are here to stay," he said.

Industry experts believe that Aggregate and Hanson, which went on a \$300m buying spree in the States this year, are set to reap the bigger US rewards among the UK building materials groups. Both companies have plans for further expansion and expect the US business to account for around 60 per cent of their sales in the near-future.

By contrast, the short-term outlook for the UK is grim. "The prospects are flat. If you look at volumes, you'll be struggling to describe them as anything but neutral," Mr Cammack said.

Although price rises are expected to beat inflation in 1999, growth will be constrained by the current economic slowdown and is set to be well below the US levels.

The deteriorating economic climate and the increasingly difficult market conditions should speed up consolidation in the sector. Marley's takeover by the Belgian group Etex and this week's bid by CRH for Ibstock set the ball rolling and experts believe more deals are set

Flying Flowers stops wilting

FLYING FLOWERS, the Jerseybased florist by post must be in the running for worst performing share of the year after a vertiginous fall in the third quarter, which saw the shares slump from 592p to 130p.

By Francesco Guerrera

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES, the

acquisitive building materials

group, vesterday reinforced its

position in the booming US

market with the \$53m (£33.1m)

purchase of Bill Smith Sand &

The acquisition of the Michi-

gan-based producer comes a

week after Aggregate saw its

hopes of expansion in the UK

dashed by the collapse of talks

over a £1.8bn merger with its UK

rival Tarmac. The shares ended

City analysts said that ves-

terday's move underlined the

ambition of Peter Tom, Aggre-

gate's chief executive, to grow

the group through boit-on ac-

quisitions in the absence of a

to plan B: to do add-on acquisi-

tions in the US and some small-

er deals in the UK. [A deal

with] Tarmac was the biggest

opportunity out there but it is un-

likely to be resurrected." one ex-

Mr Tom said that the pur-

chase of Bill Smith would give

Aggregate, formed 18 months

ago by the merger of the two ma-

terials producers Bardon and

Camas, access to a fifth region

in the US. The company al-

ready has a large US business

with operations in Colorado.

They have clearly reverted

unchanged at 69p.

large deal.

pert said.

GraveL

Yesterday, the chairman. Walter Goldsmith, a former director general of the Institute of Directors, issued a reassuring statement, indicating that pre-Christmas trading, which accounts for 30-40 per cent of annual sales of fresh flowers was "satisfactory despite the current difficult retail climate"

He was rewarded with a reclose 17p higher on the day at 187.5p.

The company's growing database now contains a million names of people, mostly women over 45, who get a mailshot four or five times a year. The comparatively modest price of a purchase - around

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

£12.50 including delivery charge - seems to be doing the trick at a time when spending on bigticket items has been wilting. Over-ambitious spending on

building up stock and on marketing at Gardening Direct, which supplies bedding plants, has been trimmed back to realistic levels, after triggering a summer profits warning. Stanley Gibbons, the stamp

dealer acquired in April, is also bedding in nicely with Benham, the existing business Walter Goldsmith: Satisfied which supplies limited edition

But the trump card played by the chairman yesterday is a reorganisation of the businesses to provide more central control and exploit the synergies between them. For the first time a finance director has been appointed. David Harbord has been brought in from a sub-



with pre-Christmas sales

sidiary of AB Foods and will also take charge of information technology and personnel. An operations director has been appointed, and a specialist consultant in business strategy has been brought in as a nonexecutive

Wrapped up in the state-

ment was a warning that the accounts for the year to 2 January will include reorganisation costs of £450,000, but excluding exceptionals the company is still on course to meet the reduced profits of £5m signalled in the last trading statement. In the last two years the

group has invested £6m-£7m in another two-acre glasshouse in Jersey, a new call-centre in Essex and a new venture in the US, building up some significant borrowings, but interest costs are falling fast and the business is still cash-generative. Analysts had already scaled

£5.5m and earnings of 15p-17p in the year just coming to an end, rising to £6m-£6.5m and 17p-18p next year, when the millennium celebrations could spawn a rash of commemorative covers and floral exhibitions. At just 10 times forward earnings the shares are realistically priced.

- JIN BRIEF

Arena Leisure (I) Jersey Electricity Co. (F) The Celebrated Group (I)

(F) - Final (I) - Intenm

MMC clampdown on insiders

THE GOVERNMENT is to abolish notice periods for companies named in Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports in an attempt to stop abuse by insider dealers. Since the 1973 Fair Trading Act, companies named by the MMC have been given confidential notice of its Dorts, 24 hours before they

Builder buyout

are published.

MORRIS HOMES, one of the UK's largest private housebuilders, has been bought by its management in a £35m deal. The deal allows NatWest Equity Partners and Clydesdale Bank Equity, who backed an earlier buyout in 1990, to exit. Quayle Munro and 3i are providing equity

Hiscox stake

SUBB CORPORATION, the insurance group, yesterday announced it had bought a 27 per cent stake in Hiscox, one of the biggest corporate insurers at Lloyd's of London. Chubb said it had no present intention of making a general takeover offer and would support the development of Hiscox as a specialist insurer.

Trust wound up

follow suit.

NATWEST Enterprise Trust, a venture capital trust, will be wound up if shareholders approve a resolution on 15 January. The trust dates back to 1981 but net assets were only worth £15m when an abortive bid approach was received earlier this year. Shareholders will receive the net asset value of 328p a show less 8p in expenses.
Other small trusts could now

	Long Gift	Dec-98	117.94	118 16	117.92 200.0		
•	5 Yr Gift German Bund	Dec-98 Mar-93	109.41 115.27		•••	319.00	
	Italian Bond	Mar-99	113.07	113.75	112.98 15365.0	37 37 9 00	Copper A 1447 1448 6.50 1477 1478 6 568200 5900 Lead 493 494 6.00 472 473 2 109575 -550
	Japan Govt Bo	Mar-99	130.70		129.00 4842.0		Nickel 3820 3830 10.00 3890 3895 10 64086 0
	3 Mth Sterling	Dec-98	93 63				Ten 5125 5135 -30,00 5135 5145 -25 7725 25
		Jun-99	94.72	94.73	94.64 10773.0		
	3 Mth Euromark		96.80	96.81	96.80 60 0.0		
	3 Mth Eurofira	Feb-99 Mar-99	96.84 96.88	96.90	96.86 3074.0	. 325 00 00 249257.00	FRECIOUS METALS
	2 MITH CIRCUITS	Jun-99	96.95	96.96	96.94 1600.0	0 72940.00	pm flx/S per oz Day's Year's pm fbx/E per oz Day's Year's Day's Year's
	3 Мұл Ештоуел	Mar-99	99.29				chg chg Year's chg chg chg
	3 Mth Euroswiss	Mar-99	98.36	98.37	98.31 10496.0		Planteum 345 00-7 00 -8 00 Planteum 205 35 -0 90 -6 80 Krue'cande 285 F3 -5 18
		Apr-99	98 .27	98.30	98.24 3904.0	00 31836.00	Palladium 310.00 4 00125.00 Palladium 184 50 2.60 73.50 Sovs 67.03
	3 Mth Euro	Jan-99	96.80	••			Silver 4.89-0.06 -1.16 Silver 2 91 -0 03 -0.73 Nobles 386 05
	FTSE 100	Feb-99 Dec-98	96.84 5742.00			·- ·-	Gold 287 25-2.40 -3.20 Muple Leaf 287.38 -11 24
	F13E 700						ACDICIUTIDAL
		LIFFE	FTSE 100	INDEX	OPTION		AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM
	Settlement Price:	5843.30					Cocoa Coffee Barley Potatoes Lge Potatoes
_	Dec			20	Feb	Mar	UFFE Exonne LIFFE Sitorine LIFFE Extorine LIFFE Extorine ATA 5.25% kg
<i>'</i>	Series Call	Imp Vol Put	•	Call Put	Call Put	Call Put	Dec98 879.00 Jan991838.00 Jan99 76.00 Mars9 243.00 Apr99 548.00
	5750 192	3		429 53	546 147	620 239	Mar99 909.00 Mar991773.00 Mar99 78.00 Apr99 319.50 May99 553.50
	5800 142	1		350 68 347 78	509 161 472 173	560 250 542 261	May99 930.00 May991730.00 May99 79.65 May99 327.00 Jun99 560.25
- 1	F000			260 91	400 205	510 285	Viol: 0 Viol: 0 Viol: 0 Viol: 0 Viol: 0
		39		Y AT 5:30PM			White Sugar* Freight Wheat Corn* Soya Beans*
l							
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	(·			Apr 11	75 0.13 Fuel 0	11 (3.5%s)55 00	
d l	GOLDN	IAN SAC	HS COM	MODITY .	INDICES A	M40E;\$ T	OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM
, I	BAS	E DATE	LAST	CHG %	CHG 31 DEC	*SCHGYTD	Feb Live Cattle (CME) 5/40k lb 58 50 Mar White Maice (SAF) 5, 100 mt 643 00
		70=100	129.53	0.57 0	44 215.26	-39.83	Feb Pork Bellies (CME) 5/40k to 41.90 Jan Rubber (TCM) Y; 5k kg 76 10
1		70=100	183.12		3.11 231.23		Jan Orange Juice (CTN) 5/15k to 103.75 Mar Cotton (CTN) 5/50k to 61.05
1		83=100	42.22		1.69 85.86		Dec MBA (CSC) \$/50k lb . Jan Crude Palm (NLC) \$/25 to 2132,00
		77=100	128.12		0.00 168.79		Mar Qats (CBT) 5/5k bsh 109.25 Mar Soya Qi (CBT) 5-604 lb 23.50
- 1		70=100	132.44 378.78		.22 191.03).45 463.54		Mar Plax (MCE) \$/30 tn . Jan Woollen Yarn (TCM) \$/500kg 1165.00
	Prec Metals 19	73=100	_			-10,23	
		FORE	IGN EXC	HANGE	RAIES		INTEREST RATES
		riing		Dollar		D-Mark	UK Germany US Japan
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	UK 1.0	0000		0.5959	0.5963 0.59		France Lombard 4.50% Discount 4.50% Belgium Intervention 3.00% Canada Fed Funds 4.81% Discount 2.75%
	Australia 2.1 Austria 19	7298 2.77 1.767 19.7	185 2,724	6 1.6267 1 11.779	1.6271 1.62 11.777 11.3	274 0.9719 773 7.0375	
				1 11.000			
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5	Belglum 57 Canado 2.6 Denmark 10 ECU 1.7 Finland 8.9 France 67 Germany 2.6 Greece 47 Hong Kong 1.7 Italy 27 Japan 19 Malaysia 6.3 Mexico 6.6	7.972 57.6 5062 2.6 6.688 10.6 4300 1.4 5421 8.5 1.421 9. 8088 2.8 1.41 473 1.997 12.6 1323 1.1 182.4 277 16.05 195 1778 6.4	331 2.598 568 10.63 562 1.419 198 8.481 199 9.35 113 2.788 12.98 12.98 12.98 12.98 13.10 13.10 13.10 14.30 15.58	2 1.5530 9 6.3692 9 1.1735 2 5.0902 1 5.6140 1 1.6738 2 280.91 1 7.7450 1 1.4821 7 1658.0	34,475 34. 1,5523 1.5: 6,3617 6.3: 1,7526 5.0: 5,0805 5.0: 5,0805 5.0: 1,6705 1.6: 282,43 285 7,7454 7.7: 1,4849 1.4: 165,40 115 3,8475 3.9:	375 20,639 520 0.9279 547 3.8053 795 0.8160 659 3.0412 858 3.3541 167.83 535 4.6273 893 0.8855 99.6 99.59 99.6 99.59 175 5.8790	Discount 3.50% Discount 5.25% 10-d Repo 3.00% Switzerland Discount 1.00% SpAdvance 3.00% Discount 3.50% Repo(Ave) 3.40% Lombard 2.88%
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Midland Private Banking

Interest rates for Midland **Private Banking customers**

With effect from 22 December 1998

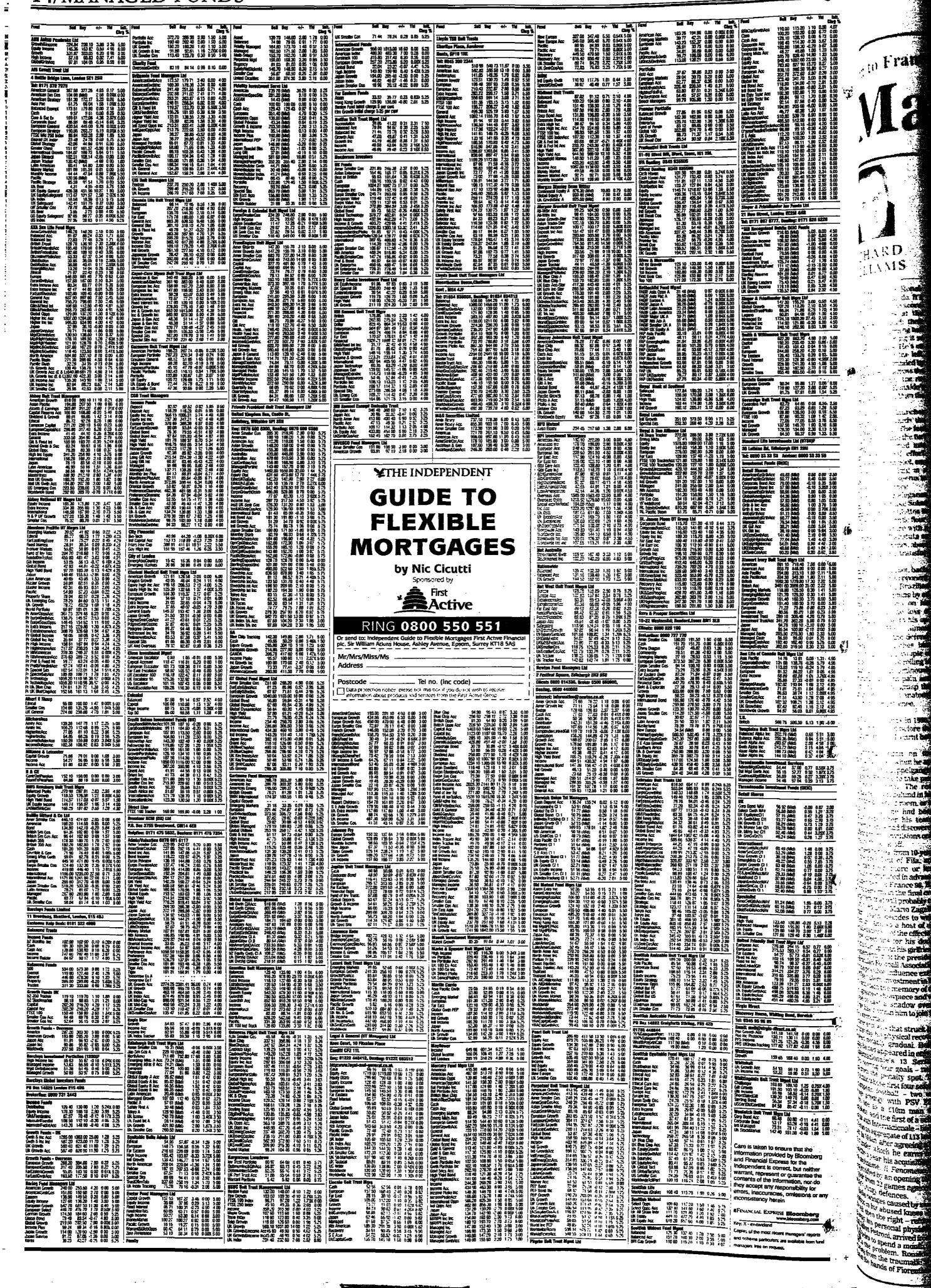
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204	1.00	1.00	
2.90	2.48	2.50	
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Previous	Gross %	AER %	
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5.61	5.13	5.25	
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6.35	5.85	5.85	
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Member HSBC Group



SPORT

Return to France 98: Mystery still surrounds the inability of the world's finest player to perform in the final

Making plans for Ronaldo



RICHARD WILLIAMS

IN FRONT of 67,000 people, Ronaldo is doing what only he can do. It's 18 minutes into the game, no score. The Sunday worshippers at the cathedral of San Siro catch their breath as he takes the dropping ball on his right thigh, cushioning it so that he can turn as it falls. He's on the half-way line, wide on the left. Roma's zonal defence is stranded by the counter-attack, strung across the pitch. Only Fabio Petruzzi, the reserve stopper, stands in Ronaldo's way, 10 yards closer to goal than the man with the ball.

Ronaldo's acceleration launches him on a run angled to wards the corner of the penalty area. The leet splay out, pushing hard into the turf as raw energy is converted into momentum with minimal effort. Two touches with his right boot, one with his left. He's travelling in a straight line, but his body seems to be moving both ways at once.

There's no delicacy or elegance about Ronaldo. He's not like Suker or Bergkamp, who have stilettos in their feet. There's no romantic flourh, either. He doesn't score with a toss of the mane, like Batistuta or Salas. He's all about efficiency, about the trained focusing and transference of power.

Petruzzi tries to keep cool, backing off, hoping to jockey his opponent. But within an instant the Brazilian has made his move, whipping by on the outside with the ball on his bootlaces, minimising the loss of time by staying as close to his opponent as possible. He is almost clear when - BANG! - the defendg's desperate boot catches him aid he hits the ground a couple of ards outside the area, not rolling in spectacular agony but ominously still, screaming out with pain and fear but moving only to grasp the most scrutinised piece of anatomy in Italy: Ronaldo's right knee.

"I LEARNT a lot of things in 1998," the 22-year-old had said before the match, "and most of all I learnt how

The suffering began on the every g of 12 July last, when he appeared to have sent a doppelganger to the Stade de France to take part in the World Cup final. The real Ronaldo had been left behind in his hotel, or in the dressing room, or in the clinic to which he had been rushed for tests after his teammate Roberto Carlos had discovered him suffering from convulsions only hours before the kick-off.

We all need heroes, from 10-yearolds to the president of Fifa, and Ronaldo had been more or less unanimously nominated in advance as the super hero of France 98. His ility to perform in the final created a mystery that will probably remain unsolved until Mario Zagallo. the team's coach, decides to write his memoirs. And so a host of unproven allegations - of the effects of Xilocaine injections for his dodgy knees, of a bust-up with his girlfriend, of the intervention of the president of the Brazilian Football Association, and of the possible influence exerted by Nike's £80m investment in the team - will stain the memory of the game's greatest showpiece and will continue to cast a shadow over a man who has it within him to join the game's immortals.

Whatever it was that struck him In that day, his physical recovery Sunday he had appeared in only six of Internazionale's 13 Serie A games, scoring four goals - two of them from the penalty spot. This from a man whose first four seasons in European football - two as a teenage prodigy with PSV Eindhoven, one as a £10m man with Barcelona, and the first of a scheduled six with Internazionale - had resulted in an aggregate of 113 league goals. In Milan, after agreeing a contract under which he earns more than £2m a year, his acquisition of a new nickname, Il Fenomeno, had been justified by an opening tally of 25 goals from 32 games against the world's stingy defences.

As the twinges caused by swollen tendons in his abused knees - first the left, then the right – refused to go away, his personal physiotheraoist, Nilton Petroni, arrived from Rio de Laneiro to spend a month workig in the problem. Ronaldo was missing from the traumatic 3-1 defeat at the hands of Fiorentina, the navy cashmere overcoat for a club



Ronaldo is carried off clutching his right knee - 'the most scrutinised piece of anatomy in Italy' - having been caught by a mistimed tackle from Roma's Fabio Petruzzi on Sunday

league leaders, on 23 November, and there was a brief panic when he described the knee problem as "chronin a television interview, terminology which appeared to suggest that his career might be as good as over. But linguistic imprecision was blamed, and there were signs of at least a partial recovery in his Champions' League appearances against Real Madrid on 26 November in a 3-1 home win, and in the 2-0 away victory over Sturm Graz on 10 December - games which bracketed the sacking of Internazionale's coach, Gigi Simoni, and the engagement of Mircea Lucescu. formerly of Rapid Bucharest. More significantly, three minutes from the end of the new coach's first league match, away to Udinese on 13 December, Ronaldo scored the only goal of the game, relaunching the team's title hopes.

in the middle of last week he played for the Rest of the World against Italy in Rome's Olympic Stadium, in a match celebrating the centenary of the Italian FA. Afterwards he told the world what he wanted for Christmas: a transfer to Internazionale for Zinedine Zidane, his team-mate for the night and his successor as the winner of France Football magazine's coveted Ballon d'Or for the Europe-based player of the year. "I love the way he reads the game," Ronaldo said. "He plays the ball so beautifully, and he has lots of attacking ideas. Maybe he'd be too expensive, but I'd still buy him. I gave him my congratulations because he deserved to win the Ballon d'Or. But I warned him, too, that next year I'll be trying to win it back."

Ronaldo returned for club training in the passenger seat of a big black Jeep, issuing a series of smiling Ciaos to team-mates, journalists, friends and strangers alike as he strode through the foyer of La Pinetina, Internazionale's training centre, a half-hour's drive north of the city, close to Lake Como with the Alpine foothills in the distance. Ten minutes later he had swapped his

the star-studded squad - Roberto Baggio, Youri Djorkaeff, Ivan Zamorano, Javier Zanetti, Gianluca Pagliuca and so on - for hunch in the players' dining room.

Training was scheduled later than usual for two reasons: the next day's match would have an evening kick-off, and the previous day's activities had included a pre-Christmas visit to the circus for the players and their families, and a lavish party afterwards at the villa of their president, Massimo Moratti,

tracksuit and was joining the rest of to join them for a practice match, full of shouting and laughter punctuated by Lucescu's hoarse commands as they rehearsed routines intended to break down Roma's four-man rearguard.

Taking part in the session was Aron Winter, the 31-year-old Dutch midfielder who moved to Internazionale via Ajax and Lazio. As the players emerged from the dressing rooms to relax before their evening meal, he spoke of his affection for the man he faced in the World Cup semi-final in Marseilles.

and he's one of the biggest stars of

the last 10 years, in fact the kind of

player who only appears every 10

years, and although he gets a lot of

pressure from that, he still works

well with the other players. He's very

available. If you need something, or

if you need to talk, he's always

Basten at Ajax and Paul Gascoigne

After playing with Marco van

Ronaldo was more or less nominated in advance as the super hero of France 98. His inability to perform against France was a mystery that will probably remain unsolved until Mario Zagallo

at Lazio. Winter is used to observ-

ing the phenomenon of mega-

celebrity at close quarters. "Rony is

a little bit like Van Basten, a little bit

quiet. They're big stars and they're

doing their work and they know what

they want to reach in their careers.

Paul Gascoigne was also a big star,

but he was different. Everybody

knows him, he likes to joke, to do

crazy things. Rony is still young, and

like all young people he likes to joke

and make the other guys laugh. But

when we're talking about quality, he

has so much talent that it's incred-

ible. Of course the rest of us play for him. That's natural." I appreciate is that he's very young,

writes his memoirs

As a member of the supporting cast, Winter appreciates those who can handle the problems associated with having their names, as Hollywood would put it, above the title. "With every young player, when there's a lot of pressure and you're in the press all the time, it's very difficult to remain yourself. Rony is a big star, the biggest since Maradona and Van Basten, but he's always himself. I'd understand it if he sometimes cause every day, every day, it doesn't matter which newspaper, which TV programme, which sponsor, a lot of people want something from him. Maybe sometimes he gets a little bit tired about those things. But he's very calm and he's got a good manager who protects him very well, so that he's going on a straight way." Against the Netherlands in July Ronaldo had been close to his best,

got uptight about those things, be-

constantly embarrassing Frank de Boer, Jaap Stam and Philip Cocu, and scoring a brilliant opening goal 16 seconds into the second half. Yet five days later he become invisible. "To this day." Winter said, "I don't know what happened. He played great against us, at a time when we were completely convinced that we were going to win the World Cup. So I was certainly surprised when I saw what happened to him in the final." Had they spoken about that when the Internazionale players reconvened at the start of the season? "No, he spoke with the doctor and the trainer. They're his private problems. I couldn't tell you exactly what happened."

HE RISES from the stretcher and tries his weight on the injured leg. Gesturing to Djorkaeff, he accepts the ball from a short free-kick and blasts it angrily over the Roma bar. Pulling his right stocking over the knee-cap, as if to coddle it, he walks thoughtfully back to the half-way line.

Until that moment Ronaldo has threatened to devastate the visitors' defence every time the ball is near him. But now he is moving with less alacrity, refusing to challenge his marker for high balls. Early in the second half he misses a fine chance to equalise Paulo Sergio's strike for Roma when he stabs a shot weakly wide after being put through by Baggio, who has been on the field less than a minute.

"The worst is over," Ronaldo had announced before the Roma match. "I'm feeling strong again. The goal in Udine gave me a lot of joy. It gave me back the confidence that I need so much, because I've been going

through a period of self-doubt as a result of the injury. Now I'm not afraid any more. I'm no longer worried that I might need surgery. Dr Volpi [the club doctor] told me that it wouldn't be an easy thing to treat, but that I wasn't to worry. He promised me that I wouldn't need an operation and he was right. I calmed down after he took me to a specialist in France who confirmed the diagnosis. As for next year, I'm just hoping to get back to 100 per cent, and then we'll see. After what I've been through I just want to play, and

to win, and to score goals." Baggio's arrival is the catalyst for an Internazionale spree of four goals in half an hour, their task eased by the expulsion of Petruzzi, given a second yellow card for tripping the substitute with the scores level at 1-1. Three minutes later Zamorano puts the home side ahead, allowing Lucescu to remove Ronaldo from the action while the rest of the team finish the job of sending the supporters off for the two-week break in a good mood, their team having vaulted over Roma to take fourth place in the table, and looking forward to the European Cup meetings with Manchester United in March.

As Ronaldo leaves the pitch and walks straight out through the San Siro tunnel to the dressing room, his departure looks like a precaution. It turns out he has a plane to catch. By the time Lucescu emerges to give his thoughts on the victory, Ronaldo is on his way home to Rio for a week's intensive physiotherapy with Nilton Petroni.

"I see 1998 as a positive year, even though it's been a difficult one," he had said at La Pinetina, "I didn't win the Italian championship, the World Cup, or the Ballon d'Or. But I'm feeling better all the time. The knee trouble has almost completely gone and now it's reduced to just a little irri-

tation. Nothing serious." The year of learning how to suffer may be over. But for the world's most visible 22-year-old, the year of repaying faith, hope and investment is about to begin.



£50m in six years of one man's career had brought Ronaldo from Barcelona to Internazionale. Even so, the session out on the practice pitch began without Ronaldo, who made his way first to the gym, mischievously aiming trips at the retreating heels of an assistant coach as he went off for special physiotherapy, while the rest were warming up with a jog and a game of one-touch. The light was already starting to fade when he trotted out



Familiar theme as England roll over

BILLED AS the sixth Test, it finished as most of the others have done, in a crushing loss for Eng- BY DEREK PRINGLE land. Michael Atherton may have contrived a finish by setting Australia 376 in 78 overs, but to win with more than 22 overs to spare, and with only one wicket down, was a humiliation that could not have hit Australia XI won by nine England's teetering morale at wickets a worse moment.

Blewett, this time with an unbeaten 213 to go with his undefeated 169 in the first innings, who was the destroyer in chief, though he was well supported by Corey Richards, who followed his first-ball duck on Monday with an unbeaten 138.

Only two players have matched Blewett's feat of scoring an undefeated double and. single centuries above 150 in the same match. Indeed, one of them, Zaheer Abbas, did it twice.

"As it turned out it, was a generous declaration," said the England manager, Graham Gooch, who was also heavily critical of the team's performance in the field on the fourth day. "It is not so much the loss as the manner of the loss, and we were totally abject today. I'm not in it for this kind of performance and I like to see England

Gooch has always taken England's defeats hard, and while he did not go as far as saying that England had played without pride, his comments did not fall far short.

"You can do as much talking as you like," he said, "but it is the players who must show the pride. They are the ones who have to examine them-

Artificial finish or not. it was certainly not the morale-booster England were seeking four days before an important Test match. Although an England win was always third favourite, after defeat and a draw, losing badly to Australian teams is prakash

in Hobart

and 199 for 3 dec Australia XI 293 for 4 dec and 376 for 1

Once again, it was Greg becoming such an ingrained habit that England's response to them has begun to emulate that of Pavlov's Dog: every time the screws are tightened, England obligingly capitulate.

Mind you, though most of it

was left unused on the final day, this was a terrifically strong Australian XI batting line-up and, given the same match circumstances, many touring sides would have lost to this team.

Yet, if it did not make for pretty viewing, unless of course you are a fan of seeing bat totally dominate ball, there were circumstances that, if not exactly mitigating, need to be taken into consideration.

For one thing, the pitch with its high clay content (71 per cent as opposed to the 30 per cent found in the loams used in England) had barely worn in four days. To confirm the batsman-friendly nature of the surface. Stuart Law felt it was the flattest he had ever encountered at the Bellerive Oval. If which persistence would not be

HOBART SCOREBOARD

Final day of four: England won toss

(Overnight 166 for 2) M A Butcher not out

Extras (no)199
Total (for 3 dec, 46.5 overs).....199

Pall: 1-118, 2-164, 3-190.

Did not bat: "M A Atherton, M R Ramprakash, G A Hick, A J Tudor, A R C Fras-

The figures tend to support

classy wrist spinner a must,

these were they.

enough and the services of on flat pitches. For a side whose

this, and over the course of the match 1,337 runs were scored for just 14 wickets in 300.4 overs. It means that each wicket averaged just over 95 runs, which were scored at rate of 4.5 per over Little wonder that when bat was actually put to ball with any degree of urgency - as it was in the last innings - rates in excess of six runs per over

Blewett, who appears to be in the form of his life, was also a major factor. Six scores of over a hundred were made in this match, of which Blewett's double was the pick of the crop. He has now scored 1,175 first-class runs this season and joins an élite set comprising David Hookes and Bobby Simpson of those who have reached a thou-

sand runs before Christmas. This was his third hundred plus score in a row against England on tour, and only his second ever double, the other coming against South Africa in Johannesburg.

In fact, only Alex Tudor escaped ignominy as Blewett struck the ball cleanly off front foot and back, straight and square, off-side and on. That he was able to do so freely was evidence that England simply lacked the discipline to bowl one ever there were conditions in side of the wicket, a basic starting point, against good players

AUSTRALIA XI - Second lunings

best method of taking wickets was to restrict the scoring, the lack of a single maiden over was a sign that things had not gone to plan. The lone wicket-taker. when he induced Matthew Elliott to bottom-edge a pull onto his stumps, Tudor was also the only bowler to get Blewett to play and miss.

Later Angus Fraser, now 33, managed to beat Richards twice in two balls, a feat that will do little to alter the impression that the Middlesex man, who went for nearly seven an over, may well have bowled his final spell for England. Afterwards, as the team waited for the coach to the airport, Fraser, a great servant for England, sat alone with his thoughts.

He was not the only one to "fetch", as cricketing vernacular would have it, and both Peter Such and Dominic Cork, both in the frame for the Melbourne Test, had figures best forgotten. Mind you, even they were trumped by Ben Hollioake, who went at nine runs an over. These are figures that a scratch side put together after an epidemic would find unacceptable, let alone England's finest

In some ways this match, particularly the three injuries suffered by the Australian side, has done England no favours. While it may be true that the batsmen may have spent time at the crease, the quality of that time, almost exclusively against a part-time attack, must be of limited use.

But if it has left England none the wiser about who to play at the MCG on Saturday, Gooch was adamant that it was attitude that England most needed to address. "I hope we'd raise our game for the Test match," he said before flying to Melbourne. "Anyway, it's the way we've been playing that needs to be looked at, not the configuration of the team."



England's Dominic Cork shows the strain of bowling to the Australia XI's double centurion Greg Blewett in yesterday's final day of the match in Hobart

Murray stakes his claim for Test spot

A USEFUL second-wicket partnership of 62 off only 80 balls pushed the West Indies along to 95 for 3 in their second innings before bad light ended their four-day game against South Africa A at the Pietermaritzburg Oval yesterday.

The West Indies had been bowled out for 375 in their first innings, to which the hosts replied with 293.

"Any play is better than no play," said the West Indies coach, Malcoim Marshall, afterwards. "There were two pluses: Shivnarine Chanderpaul's 182 and the way Junior Murray batted. It was only Junior's first first-class outing of the tour so he did pretty well." Murray scored 45 and 11

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Total E1 80: 51

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PIPE P McCon T-L3

... LINE X

and is earmarked to bat at No 6 in the Kingsmead Test starting on Boxing Day in Durban. But that may be the only problem solved by the tourists in Pietermaritzburg. A lot of questions remain

unanswered, with the failure of their strike bowlers to again wrap up an innings being just 🧳

The West Indian pace bowler, Nixon McLean, did, however, manage to crack through the A side's middle-order to finish with 3 for 49 from 18 overs and steal a march on his two Test rivals, Franklyn Rose and Mervyn Dillon. Paul Adams, who was nearly felled by a shy at the stumps from Rose, responded by cracking the pace bowler for two successive fours in a entertaining cameo.

With McLean dismissing Nic Pothas (26), Shafiek Abrahams (1) and Makhaya Ntini (0), Rose was falling behind in the race for a place in this weekend's third Test line-up and it came as little consolation when he had Adams caught at mid-off. He finished with 1 for 42 from. 19.3 overs, while the sparselyused Dillon had to settle for 1 for 6 from nine overs.

TOUR MATCH (Pletermaritzburg, fi-nal day of four)West Indies 375 (5 Chan-derpaul 182) and 95 for 3: South Africa A 293. Match drawn.

Rebels find cause for optimism Smart money on Lindsay's exit

IT WOULD be too simple. For a start it would involve dismounting from high horses. swallowing pride and shoving principles to one side. But it would save a lot of parties a huge amount of financial trouble and stress in the work place.

Cardiff and Swansea, the rebellious Welsh clubs, have come up with the perfect solution to untangle the Gordian Knot which is tying up the Welsh and English Rugby Unions, the International Board and the 14 Premiership clubs.

The root cause of a lot of the troubles is the as vet unsanctioned Anglo-Welsh series of matches. The RFU is saying

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

strapped clubs who will have to cough up. But if Swansea and Cardiff's suggestion is adopted it could be solved at one stroke.

"The problem is that the IB can object to these games because they are not approved by the WRU or RFU," said Swansea's chairman, Geoff Atherton. "If they gave their blessing then the matches would have a legitimacy and the IB would not need to be involved."

Cardiff's chief executive. Gareth Davies, concurred, saythat, if six-figure IB fines are ing: "The charge is that Cardiff

and Swansea have breached regulations. If the WRU opts to has said anything to me. But in sanction those matches then we would not be in breach of anyone's regulations."

the two rebels £150,000 for playing the English clubs; the IB is withholding £60,000 of RFU grants for not taking action against the Premiership clubs for playing the fixtures, with the threat of bigger fines to come.

Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, has given an unequivocal rebuttal to suggestions of a return to his troubled old club. Bath, as coach in place of his former team-mate Andy Robinson, reportedly under pressure to resign.

Hill said: "No one from Bath any event there is absolutely no chance of me returning."

There will be some move-The WRU has fined each of ment in the new year, however when the Welsh Rugby Union's Challenge Trophy gets under way. The WRU has invested £500,000 to fly in eight teams, including three South African provincial sides. There will also be three national teams, Canada, Romania and Namibia, as well as the two Scottish Super Districts. Glasgow Caledonians and Edinburgh Reivers.

They will be competing against the eight Welsh Premier Division clubs, with the 16 teams being split into two pools. I two decades.

THE ODDS have shortened dra-RUGBY LEAGUE

matically on Maurice Lindsay announcing in the new year that he is leaving the game. The 57year-old managing director of Super League, currently on holiday, is expected to confirm that he will be leaving his job after completing his two-year contract in September.

That has looked the likely outcome ever since it was revealed 10 days ago that Lindsay had paid over £200,000 for a number of bookmaking stands at various race courses. He will now pursue his first sporting love, to the exclusion of the game in which he has been such a controversial figure for

By DAVE HADFIELD

Lindsay was the dominant figure behind Wigan's rise to pre-eminence in the British game in the 1980s, but he found the task of running the whole sport, as chief executive of the Rugby League, much more intractable

Lindsay was effectively removed from that position by the League's chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, last year, but moved straight into a parallel role at Super League. His record there has been mixed, but he completed a major item of unfinshed business when Sky TV cover games until 2003 earlier tender if he wanted the job. this year.

Lindsay has made little secret of his continuing passion for horse racing. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the chairmanship of the Tote before he took the Super League job and has been reluctant to give up his bookmaking interests.

Super League has several months to find a successor. One obvious candidate is Ian Robson, the former chief executive of the Australian Rules side Sydney Swans and the Auckland Warriors, who was brought in by Lindsay to fill a similar role with Super League. Leeds' chief executive, Gary Hetherington,

extended their contract to would also be a strong con-

Huddersfield, spreading their net wide under their new coach, Malcolm Reilly, have completed their overseas quota by signing the former Cronulla forward, David Boughton, from Adelaide. Boughton, who was also wanted by Brisbane and Newcastle, was available because of the closure of Adelaide Rams.

Kris Radlinski is expected to follow Terry O'Connor by pledging his long-term future to Wigan. The Great Britain fullback is poised to agree a new. four-year, deal that will warn off rugby union clubs who had been watching his situation.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL Dan Marino, the Miami guarterback, night as his team beat the Denw Broncos 31-21 to put the Dolphins in the play-offs. It was the Broncos second defeat in a row, but their 13-2 record assures them home-field adtempt to defend their Super Bowl CAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

2 473 7 351 7 264 9 296 10 228 CRICKET John Pretiove, the former Kent batsman, was yesterday named as

etkeeper, is to succeed the former England batsman Tom Graveney as the club's president. The 72-year-old will take over the role if members approve a committee rec

ommendation at the New Road AGM in February.

SHEPFIELD SHIELD (Final day of Four): (Syduney): New South Wales 360 (S Waugh 116) and 362 for 4 (M Waugh 126, M Stater 113): Victoria 438 for 9 dec (B Hodge 120, M Mott 105). Match drawm. (Perth): South Australia 503 for 6 dec (D Fitzgerald 167. J Vaughan 157no) and 209 for 6 dec (J Siddons 125no; M Nitcholson 5-49). Western Australia 354 for 8 dec (D Martyn 123, J Langer 64) and 174 for 8 (M Harrity 4-35). Match drawn.

SPORTING DIGEST

EQUESTRIANISM NDAY'S LATE RESULTS: OU

FOOTBALL Eintracht Frankfurt, fourth from bottom in the German Bundesligo First Division. have appointed Reinhold Fanz as their new coach following the sacking of Horst Ehrmanntraut two weeks ago. Fanz. 44. Joins Ein-

lo joined three other sides from Lazio joined three other sides from Serie A in the top 10.

TOP 20 CLUB RANKINGS: 1 Bayern Munich (Ger) 100,94: 2 Parma (It) 89.53; 3 Marseilles (Fr) 88.46: 4 Fiorentma (It) 87.33; 5 Bordeaux (Fr) 86.13; 6 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 84.19; 7 Dynamo Klev (Ibr) 81.93: 8 Roma (It) 81.62: 9 Internazionale (It) 81.08; 10 Lazio (It) 80.92; 11 Real Mallorca (Sp) 77.41; 12 Rosen-

FA CARLING

PREMIERSHIP

4 Manchester United v Noton Forest ...

5 Middlesbrough v Liverpool 6 Newcastle v Leeds

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

10 Birmingham v Sheff Utd 11 Bolton v Bradford....

? Crewe v Bury Huddersfield v Grimsby,

15 Oxford Utd v Crystal Patace

22 Blackpool v Wigan

16 OPR v Norwich
17 Stockport v Barnsley.
18 Swindon v Wolvernampton
19 Tranmere v Sunderland
20 Watford v Bristol City
21 West Brom v Port Vale

SECOND DIVISION

14 lpswich v Portsmout

borg Trondheim (Nor) 76.94; 13 Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 76.91, 14 Bologna (It) 76.89; 15 Müan (It) 76.07; 16 Celta Vigo (Sp) 73 99; 17 Partizan Belgrade (Vig) 73.90; 18 Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 73.64;

29 Notes County v Northampton . 30 Stoke v Preston

36 Cambridge Utd v Rotherham. 37 Cardiff v Shrewsbury

38 Exeter v Torquay...... 39 Halifax v Darlington

THIRD DIVISION

SCOTTISH PREMIER

LEAGUE

SCOTTISH

FIRST DIVISION

40 Dunfermiine v Aberdeen .

Kilmamock v Hearts

Andrie v Raith

ICE HOCKEY SNOOKER

SQUASH

Paul Johnson and Cassie Jackman

John Higgins goes into 1999 with an emphatic lead at the top of the world rankings. The Scot, who won the Embassy World Championship and Liverpool Victoria UK Champion-

TODAY'S FIXTURES FOOTBALL

head the end-of-year England rank-ings released yesterday by the Squash Rackets Association. Johnfinalist earlier this month and Jack-

BOXING DAY AND BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY POOLS FORECASTS

Tennis Association Christmas singles at Queen's Club in London yesterday. Second-seeded Jelfs, a former British No 1, beat Jheni Osman of Sussex in the semi-finals. Taylor, a left-hander, beat the top seed Kate Warne-Hol-land 6-4 6-4 in her seml.

7.30 unless stated
CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP Second round: Racing Club Warwick v Sutton Cold-field Town (7.45)

BASKETBALL

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: BRITISH WTA CHRISTMAS SINGLES (Queen's Club. London): Quarter-finals: (Warne-Holland (Dorset) bt N Woordhouse (Norfolk) 6-1 6-1; C Taylor (Oxon) bt H Collin (Surrey) 6-4 6-7 6-3; J Oxman (Sur-sex) bt H Crook (Esser) 6-3 7-6; L Jed (Oxon) bt J White (Northants) 6-0 6-4; Semi-finals: Taylor bt Warne-Holland 6-4 6-4; Jelis bt Oxman 6-1 6-3.

TODAY'S NUMBER

3,514 The number of yards

throum by Peyton Manning of Indianapolis Colts' this season, the most ever by an NFL rookie quarterback.

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

the county's president for 1999.

Roy Booth, who won a championship

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impling Championships: Trax-ock-Out: 1 Pearl (G Luckett, GB):

tracht from the Second Division Italian teams moved into a dominant position in the European club rankings this week as internazionale and

(POI) 72.34.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First Division: Bournemourh 4

Southampton 1: Fulham 1 Wimbledon 0.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling

Bovers 4 Diss 0. Postponed: Barkingside v Oldbury Rymas League Premier Division: Pur Rete 1 Surton Utd 3. Puma Cup Second round: Boreham Wood 7 Carney Island 1 (act; Canuey Island 1 (act; Canuey Island 1 (act; Canuey Island 1 Month 1 Boshley 3. Pontilas League Second Division: Postponed: NewCastle v Shrewsbury Third Division: Wegan v Bury League Cup Group Twee: Barnsley 1 York 2. Group Taree: Man City 0 West Brom 0 Aron Insurance Combination First Division: Listen 3 Yottenham 0. Postponed: Cambridge V Brentford; Reading v Millwall. North Western Trains Floodlit Trophy First round second leg: Postponed: Atherton v stenttore; Reading v Millwall, North Western Trains Floodlit Trophy First round second legs Postponed: Atheron Collieries v Warrington Town, Greek League Ethnikos 1 AEK 4; Iraklis 0, Ohympiakos 2; Verria 0, Aris 1; Xanthi 1, Panionios 0. Standinos 4 (New York)

TENNIS Lizzle Jelfs and Claire Taylor reached the final of the British Women's

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION . grifits v Sciring **CP** Not on coupons Arbroach v Forfar, Cyde v Partick. Sunday: East Fife v Inverness Cal, Queen of South v Livingston. Scottish Third Division: Albon v Queen's Park.

housemuir v East Stirling. TEN HOMES: Arsenal v West Ham, Man-

PIVE AWAYS: Crewe v Bury, Tranmere v Sunderland, Bristol Rovers v Gillingham Notts County v Northampton, Brighton (Brentford POUR DRAMS: Coventry v Tottenham. Everton v Derby. Newcastle v Leeds. Sheffield Wednesday v Lekester.

MONDAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Aston Villa v Shelf Wed....

6 Nottm Forest v Southa

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 9 Barnsley v QPR..... 10 Bradford v Transmere... 11 Bristol City v Swindon 12 Bury v Birmingham..... 13 Crystal Palace v West Brom..... 14 Grimsby v Stockport 15 Port Vale v Bolton

th v Oxford Uni

16 Portsmouth v Waldersfield...... SECOND DIVISION

ild v Blackpool lan City v Stoke. mpton v Fulham. ... 27 Preston v Wrexham. 2 28 Reading v Notts County 1 29 Wigan v Walsall 29 Wigan v Walsall 20

Mycombe v Chesterfield

34 Darlington v Leyton Orient ... 35 Hardepool v Rochdale...... 36 Peterborough v Brighton ... 37 Plymouth v Exeter 38 Rotherham v Halifax

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Barrow v Northwich dnesford v Doncaster 49 Leek v Telford TEN HOMES: Aston Villa v Sheff Wed, Leiceser v Blackburn, Leverpool v New-castle, Nottm Forest v Southampton, To-tenham v Everron, West Ham v Covenbry Barnsley v QPR, Sunderland v Crewe, Hayes v Welling, Hednesford v Doncaster, FIVE AWAYS: Chariton v Arsenal, Port Vale v Bolton, Northampton v Fulham, ham v York, Dover v Kingstonlan.

THIRD DIVISION 31 Brentford v Cardiff 32 Carlisle v Cambridge Utd . 33 Chester v Mansfield

FOUR DRAWS: Derby v Middlesbrough. Bristol City v Swindon, Bury v Birming-ham, Crystal Polace v West Brom. Pools forecast selections by Ian Dayles

(em) 11-1 3 (5ch). ". out of by K Balley at W

حكذا من الاحل

Hurray takes his laim for lest spot

Racing: The price is wrong says the man behind a leading candidate for the King George VI Chase

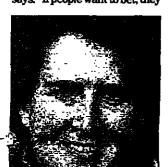
Cautious tip from Teeton's owner

A heart transplant has not stopped Stephen Winstanley becoming

a betting guru. By Greg Wood

stanley does not recommend a bet on Teeton Mill in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Saturday is not, on the face of it, the most important piece of news around this morning. But consider this. As the rest of the country tries to spend itself to a standstill, Winstanley is giving away information that you would normally be expected to pay for The January sales, it seems, really have started early

Winstanley is the founder, proprietor and fiercely analytical brain behind The Winning Line, one of the few private tipping services which has managed to shake off the image of threadbare spivs touting brown envelopes in racecourse car parks. He has about 500 clients who pay a little over £1,000 a Bear to share in his assessments of the form book, "I look at myself as a financial adviser," he says. "If people want to bet, they



Williams: Very careful

LUDLOW Going: Chase course – Good (Good to Soft in places)

(Good in places)

Also: 9-2 Basman (5th), 6-1 Route One (4th), 8-1 Philistar (6th), 20-1 River Captain, 40-1 Unitus, 50-1 Dauphin,

NR. Brilliant Star, Dancing in Rio, Floris-

JEMAROGary Lyons 7-4 fav
 Raffles Rooster...N Williamson 2-1
 Full of Bounce ...T Dascombe 20-1

20. 10. 15. 8. (Winner bay gelding by Tidaro out of Jeremique, trained by W Jenks at Bridgmorth for J Beasley). Tobe: £2.50; £1.40. £1.40. DP: £2.90. CSF. £5.10. Tixast: £35.40. NR: Blatant

Also: 7-2 Prairie Minstrei (5th), 5-1

8 ran. 6, sht-hd, 6, 5. (Winner boy

gelding by Rudimentary out of Turn-about, trained by B Llewellyn at Bargoed for Mrs M Llewellyn). Toba: £2.70; £1.10, £2.70, £4.10, DF: £6.40, CSF: £12.86 Tricast: £154.82, NR: Martghano, Royal Then, Trade Wind.

7 ran. 9, 15. 11, 21. (Winner bay gelding by Kambalda out of Furry Lady. trained by D Nikholson at Temple Gulting for Mrs R J Skan). Totes: £4.90: £2.40, £1.70, DF: £7.70, CSF: £13.40.
Tricast. £30.81, NR: Beasson, Hood-

2.45 (2m 5f 110yds mares novice hurdle)
1. TEMPESTUOUS LADY_____

Also: 2-1 Give Me Space (5th), 33-1 Alf-inclusive, 40-1 Gaye Gordon, Top Schol-ar, 100-1 The Big Rockette (4th), The Polecat (5th), 9 ran, 10, %, 1%, 1, 16. (Winner bay more by Section Blake out of Lody Eas-ton, trained by N Henderson at Lambourn for Mes Exphants 1 Behar £1 80: £1.10.

for Mrs E Roberts). Tota: £1.80; £1.10, £3.50, £1.70, DF: £33 60, CSF: £26.69. NR: Chelworth VI, Roborette.

2. Jack Refigures on evens fav 2. Jack Refigure 12-1 3. Non Vintage W Worthington 13-2 Also: 11-4 Ferrufino (6th), 8-1 Zahid (4th), 50-7 Fee Tee Too (5th).

A. 9. 1. 7. 2V. (Winner bay gelding Sovereign Water out of Weish Charmer, trained by K Balley at Upper Lambourn for P J Vogt). Totes £1.80. £1.50. £1.10, DF: £4.90. CSF: £11.51

2. Primitive StarE 3. Smokey DivaN Wil

1. SUPREME CHARM ... N William

esert Power (Ath), 9-1 Flative's First, 1-1 Classic Exhibit, 16-1 Weet And See

io: 4-1 Stanmore, 13-2 Parliamentarian

tan, Mobaye. Saguaro.

1.15: (2m 4f handicap chase)

Outburst, Damas, Micherado.

A P McCoy 10-1 eightsWi Marston 4-1 od Fun ..A Maguire 7-4 fair

THE FACT that Stephen Win- might as well take the advice of people who spend 12 hours a day looking at form and horses. and have informed bets." Some of Winstanley's clients

are so eager to take advantage of his selections that they stand in betting shops with mobile phones, dialling repeatedly to be sure that they get the tips as soon as they are released. But even then, they may find that a 5-1 chance has shrunk to 5-2 in the time it takes to write out their slip. Like George Soros in the Square Mile, Winstanley is a man whose opinion can move And like so many others on

the turf, he also has an interesting story to tell, even if his eagerness to keep a low profile is such that requests for a photograph to illustrate it were politely but firmly refused. Now 42, Winstanley was oblivious to racing until his early twenties, when he was a reporter for Piccadilly Radio covering the Manchester United beat during the Ron Atkinson era.

"A lot of the footballers in the squad were very keen on horses," he says, "and I got interested through chatting to them. And what I also realised was that a lot of them seemed to lose vast amounts of money on it, even though they had trainers ringing them up with informa-

Winstanley's interest hecame more acute following an Bird, probably the most fa-

RACING RESULTS



Teeton Mill, at home this week with his stable lad, Phil Turner, prepares for his Boxing Day test at Kempton

mous professional gambler of be fatal, and I knew at the back says that "I'm fitter than I've not all going to win, and you the last 40 years. "I spent a lot of time picking his brains, and one thing he always impressed on me was that he didn't listen to anyone. I used to go round there and someone like Dick Hern would ring up, but he would take everything that

trainers told him with a pinch of salt. He always said that the only horses he never did very well on betting-wise were his own, because he would find himself making excuses for them. Winstanley studied hard

at the University of Punting and graduated with honours, but all the while, a

demon which had haunted him since birth was demanding urgent attention. "I was born with severe pulmonary hypertension," he says. "which is very high blood pressure between the heart and lungs. Every now and then I would

of my mind that at some stage I would need a heart-lung transplant."

While he waited for a suitable match, Winstanley's doctors advised a change from the endless scramble of a news reporter's life. He thus became perhaps the only person in rac-

ever been in my life". The horses, too, have their

ejuvenating qualities. The Winning Line's string of horses, in which all clients have the option to take a small share, is now into double figures. Like Teeton Mill, the Hennessy Gold Cup winner, most are stabled

'I look at myself as a financial adviser. If people want to bet, they might as well take the advice of people who spend 12 hours a day looking at form and horses, and have informed bets'

ing history to take up professional punting for the sake of his health. The Winning Line was founded at the suggestion of a friend, first as a premium-rate telephone line, and then as a private subscription service. The most important phone call break a blood vessel, just like of his life arrived three-and-a-Sooner or later it was going to a success, and now Winstanley own horses. Obviously, they're

with Venetia Williams, including Stretarez, who won the Ormonde Stakes at Chester's May meeting last season. And did so, what's more, at 25-1, a price which would have been much shorter had Winstanley tipped Stretarez to his clients.

horses do, funnily enough, and half years ago. A match had main problems with running a introduction to the late Alex I'd start coughing up blood. been found, the transplant was tipping service and having your it's got no chance."

have to treat each race on its merits, but if they win when we haven't tipped them, our members are going to want to know why. The King George is a typical example. Teeton Mill is 3-1 now, and I don't think he's anything like a betting proposition

at that price. You still get 3-1 whether it's our horse or anyone else's, and there are at least five possible winners. There must be better bets on Saturday than that." Winstanley takes partic-

ular pleasure in searching for horses with untapped potential, and then attempting to buy them. "I find that an enormous number of trainers don't seem to have a very good handle on how good or bad their horses are. One of the things which sets Venetia apart is that she uses the ammunition she has very carefully, whereas some trainers just seem to It is, as he admits, "one of the decide to give a horse a run a over their lives, but whether week on Wednesday even when

urday, Teeton Mill's owner will quickly return to the eternal battle he wages on behalf of his

clients. What with the bookies shortening up the prices, and inevitable runs of bad luck and losers, his life does not get any easier. He also lives with the knowledge that "some of them are betting with money they can't afford to lose. That's the nature of it, we tend to attract people who want to make money quickly, rather than those who have it already. It can be quite a strain, and when we have a bad run, I wake up at

But even so, the memory of the times when he would make his selections with form books spread out on his hospital bed gives him an important sense of perspective. Transplants, he says, "don't tend to last foreyer, so you have to make the most of life. Racing people tend to get obsessed by it and it takes Tecton Mill wins the King George is not the be all and end Whatever the result on Sat- all. It's just horse racing."

night worrying".

Spurs linked with **Freund**

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

yesterday said to be talking to the German international midfielder Steffen Freund.

According to reports, Borussia Dortmund are ready to sell the player before his contract runs out at the end of the season. The Spurs manager, George Graham, has been impressed by the defensive midfielder, who was a member of the German squad during this year's World Cup finals, but struggled with injury.

Leeds United were dealt a second injury blow within three weeks yesterday with the news that their centre-back Robert Molenaar is out for the season.

Molenaar underwent a scan on Monday on the knee problem sustained during the 3-1 defeat at Arsenal on Sunday following a late tackle from behind by Nicolas Anelka.

The 29-year-old Dutchman, nicknamed 'The Terminator', will be out for at least eight months with cruciate ligament damage, joining his fellow de-fender Martin Hiden on the sidelines with the same injury.

Bryan Richardson has been charged with misconduct for his alleged verbal attack on referee Steve Dunn. The Coventry City chairman confronted the official in his dressing room after the Premiership game against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on 5 December, following Dunn's rejection of two penalty appeals as Wimbledon came from behind to win 2-1.

St Mirren have offered the Alloa manager, Tom Hendrie, the chance to take control at Love Street, following the departure of the previous manager, Tony Fitzpatrick, last week.

Hendrie has been interviewed but wants to consider the offer, as he would have to resign from his Edinburgh teaching job to become a full-time

St Mirren turned to Hendrie after Mark Hateley, the former Hull City manager, was ruled out of contention because of his wage demands.

pleted the £225,000 signing of

Books for Christmas: Tales of the disappointed on the track in racing and athletics

Getting a lift from the downside

being a journalist is that you learn how to recognise a good book.

Years of reviewing titles gives one a unique insight into how disparate strands fuse to make an outstanding work. I am therefore able to inform that this Christmas's superior offering is Stan Hey's An Arm and Four Legs (Yellow Jersey Press, £15), largely because of two factors: Stan is my mate (though not quite close enough

I get a mention. These things count when you're reviewing. 1.00: 1, TOP FIT (W Ryan) 5-1; 2, Baros Stan is also a very funny man, an unlikely figure from a Liverpool council estate who went to St Catharine's College,

1.30: 1. MARY JAME (Mette Harssen) 7-2: 2. Polar Rise 9-4 jt fav; 3. Squire Corrie 4-1. 9 ren. 9-4 jt fav Malla (5th). 11/4. 1/4. 19 Berry, Cockerham). Rose £4.50: £1.30, £1.10. £1.50. DF: £4.30. CSF: £10.90. 2.00c 1. NEKITETS STAR (G Bardwell) 6-1: 2. Golden Lyric 5-1: 3. Repton 7-2 fav. 9 rass. 2, hd. (M Brittam, Wart Hill). Tobes 57.70; 62.60, 61.40, 61.90. DF 625 10. CSF: 632.09. Tricast: £109.14.

CSF: 532.09. Wrask Ellis 14.
2.36: 1. LOME ACADEMY (R Fitzpatrick)
9-1; 2. Weetman's Weigh 5-1 jt fav, 3.
feallam Symphony 10-1. 15 ran. 5-1 jt
fav Topton (4th), 1/9, 3/4, (M) Johrston. Modleham). Rotes £14.10; £3.60, £2.40.
£3.20. DF: £48.40. CSF: £52.40. Tricase.
£448.80. Tote Triffecta: £232.40. NR:
Godmersham Park.

CSF: 297.63.
3.36: 1. DAHLEDWA (P Doe) 20-1: 2. Mac-tabassir 11-10 fav. 3. Octar 6-1. 14 ras. 1. 3%. (M Polgase. Newmarket). Totar 521.20: 53.50, 51.50, 52.60. DF. 525.30. CSF: 538.70. Tricast: £161.86. NR: Bap-trees J Barris. dsmai Rock.

booked to ride Dorans Pride in the Ericsson Chase at Leop-

Coral sold to Morgan Grenfell,

3.45: (2m NH Flat race)
1. STARTING AGAIN ...J Tizzard 10-7
2. Bowl Of Gold ..L Cummins 2-1 fau
3. Macaw-BayMr 5 Stronge 11-4 Also: 11-2 Norman Racquet, 14-1 Bal-moral Spring, 16-1 Meadows Boy, 20-1 Got News For You (Sth), 25-1 Barton Nic (4th), 33-1 Sticky Moments, Trav-elling Mon (6th), Turn Up The Heat, Velsheda, Willie Wallace, 40-1 Weldsgift, 50-1 Impenny. Stone Mountain. 16 ran. 1%, 1%, 1. 5, 9. (Winner bay gelding by Petoski out of Lynemore, owned and trained by Capt T Forster at Downton). Tote: £5.10: £2.30, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £8.10. CSF: £26.02.

Jackpot: £1.66.70.

There are 1. 56.070.

13 ran. 16. 7., 2, 7. 13. (Winner bay filly by Governor General out of Sharp Venita, trained by M Pipe at Wellington for J Chesney). Tobus £12.40; £2.80, £2.20. £1.10. DP: £26.40. CSF: £46.62. Placepot: £5.60. Quadpot: £4.80. Place 6: £11.35. Place 5: £7.34.

SOUTHWELL Going: Standard

12.00: 1. JOHANNIE THE JOKER (Dean McKeown) 7-2; 2. Cashaplenty 9-4 lav; 3. Copper Cookle 40-1. 10 ran. 31/. 3. (J. Leigh, Gainsborough). Tabes £5.30; £1.80. £1.20. £6.00. DP. £8.90. CSP. £10.37. Tricast: £238.46. 12,30: 1. ELTON LEDGER (R Price) 1-5 far; 2. Golog Places 16-1: 3. Dhide And Rule 40-1. 8 raz. 2. 5. (Mrs N Macauley, Melton Mowbray). Totes: £1.20; £1.10, £2.00, £8.60, DF: £3.90, CSF: £3.89, NR:

de Pichon 33-1; 3. Love Diamonds 6-4 fav 12 ran. Sht-hd. hd. (W Haggas, New-market). Take: £6.00; £2.00, £5.80, £1.50. DF: £283.40. CSF: £163.24. Tric-

3.00: 1. GRASSLANDIK (J. Cuinn) 9-2: 2. Keen Hands 20-1: 3. Ladycake 7-1. 14 ran. 5-2 ray Socializer (4th). 5ht-hd. 2/... (A. Newcombe. Barnstaple). Taber 55.50: £1.90. £6.60, £2.20. DF: £139.00.

Placepot: £21,00. Quadpot: £11.40. Place 6: £10,04. Place 5: £5,87. Paul Carberry has been

ardstown on Monday. Carberry replaces Richard Dunwoody, who will be on Florida Pearl for Willie Mullins in the same race. Dunwoody said: "It's likely to be a small field but it's a fascinating contest and it certainly won't be a walkover. Florida Pearl is in very good form though and it should be a great race."

page 10

ONE OF the great benefits of BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

muddy trousers.

to spell my name correctly) and for him.

Cambridge and is now preceded at the racecourse by a rather substantial Havana. Self-deprecation is a wellused tool on Merseyside, and

Stan has got the full socket set. An Arm and Four Legs is about his dabble into racehorse ownership, which, as anyone who has embarked towards this financial iceberg will tell you, is a tremendous fount for hardłuck stories.

It's amusing and entertaining to read about Stan's travails horse is funny. Martin Pipe

because it's real. Racing is almost entirely about losing, yet most of the books we are fed portray winners, images of champagne flutes and strawberries. Here we get it like it is: weak Boyril, catastrophic bets and huge dry-cleaning bills for

This is the most relevant racing effort since David Ashforth's Hitting The Turf, which earned my mark of five out of 10 (another mate, no mention). Like Ashforth, Hey revels in the role of the unlucky loser, which makes racing the proper game

The narrative concerning the racecourse debut of one of his horses, Rowley John, is cracking and the overall emotional effect of owning horses amusingly familiar to this writer. My foray into ownership with the redoubtable Merry Wand ended with form figures PPR, and the last letter was retired rather than refused.

I didn't think I missed it until I read Hey's book, but then the attraction returned. It may money, but by God owning a and friends.

and Hereford also get a mention, but it is not as compli-

mentary as mine. If you like spanking new pubs, with jukeboxes and widescreen televisions, you are not the sort who is going to enjoy An Arm and Four Legs. If you like dive bars full of Jack The Ripper smoke, it will suit. If you waft away the smoke, you might

even see Stan and his cigar. I get a mention, too, in Jenny Pitman, the autobiography (Partridge Press, £17.99) even if it is under the umbrella of those nasty press beasties with which Mrs P has always been obsessed.

Jenny has never grasped the fact that journalists do not write about her just to fill in the hours before opening time. People are genuinely interested in her and justifiably so.

Whatever you say about Jenny Pitman she has made it in a sport which discriminates relentlessly against both women and those from the wrong side of the tracks. Her autobiography begins with Pitman's rearing in bucolic Leicestershire, a sort of poor man's be a cataclysmic waste of Famous Five with her family

The early passages are not



Pitman: Recently given the all clear from cancer

so much laced with sentimentality as much as served neat. Her parents might have been plain Mr and Mrs Harvey to the neighbours, but, by Pitman's account, they are up there with Zeus and Hera. Jenny quickly establishes a character which

and single-minded, and it is a strength of the book that you can read it in her voice.

You would have to be a very bad man not to feel genuinely moved by the trainer's sentiments about her old horses. In addition, you would have to be

rather amused by Jenny's belief in the supernatural

She claims to have been mystically guided in the training of Garrison Savannah before his Gold Cup, so that her mother could watch the Cheltenham success shortly before her death. Jenny also tells us that before the void Grand National she received a premonition that all was not right. She says she does not bet and that would be unfair on bookmakers. With this sixth sense, the Cassandra of Upper Lambourn could make a fortune.

In the postscript Mrs P talks about her fight with cancer. The news, post publication, is that a recent check-up gave her the all clear.

The trouble with writing about Tony McCoy is that he will inevitably come up with something startling post publication. The paperback The Real McCoy (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.99) is Claude Duval's effort at updating after his original biography of last year. Even so, the outstanding McCoy has done him again with his recent controversial use of the whip. We can expect an even more swollen book

Failure to realise potential in heart-to-heart

IS THIS the book which stopped a piece of athletics history being made?

It was once said that the greatest sight in athletics was David Jenkins storming down the back straight of a 400 metre

The worst sight, meanwhile, was David Jenkins in the home straight of the same 400m race. There was more than a touch of that when watching Roger Black in the final strides at the AAA Championships final in Birmingham last July Black knew that he needed to finish in the first two to guarantee too few.

BY STEVEN DOWNES himself a place in the British

team for the European Championships and a chance of an unprecedented third title. But in the last strides Black

faded into fourth. It has long been dangerous policy to leave decisions in the hands of athletics selectors so, when Black was omitted from the team. there was a strong sense that in the previous couple of months he may have attended one book-signing session too many and one training session

The publicity drive for How Long's the Course? - My Autobiography by Roger Black with Mike Rowbottom (Andre Deutsch, 250pp, £15.99) had ensured, though, Black had at least one success in his last season. Of books in the limited athletics canon, only Linford

Christie has ever sold more (and he has twice published "auto"-biographies), which is proof of Black's popularity with the British public. Like Black himself, the book covers the ground speedily and seemingly effortlessly, from his

days as a bright, football-

absorbed, Portsmouth choirboy "who had everything", through to the athletics heights of the Olympic silver medal in Atlanta in 1996. It was this book which re-

vealed that Black had a serious heart condition diagnosed when he was 11, requiring annual check-ups ever since. A recurring theme throughout the book, written with The Independent's athletics corresponquestion of realisation of potential. From accusations from friends that Black had under-

of 1995-96 with David Jenkins, his career in Atlanta. There are there is a sense of self-doubt that Black never ran his perfect race. Athletics watchers were aware of the cruel catalogue of injuries in Black's career, but only now is there an awareness of what may have been, literally, at the heart of the problem.

The relationship with Jenkins, a predecessor as British record-holder, is curious bedent, Mike Rowbottom, is the cause of Black's stance against drugs and Jenkins' criminal conviction for peddling steroids. Yet Black credits to have no place in such a achieved, to the philosophising Jenkins with the role of mentor book.

during the pre-Olympic winter in achieving the pinnacle of echoes of Chariots of Fire here, with Black receiving messages from pariah-like Jenkins just as Harold Abrahams did from his coach, the banned professional Sam Mussabini.

Black's auto-didactic philosophy grates at times, but not so much as his reluctance to express an opinion on the issues he raises in the book, "You can see both sides" is a phrase which betrays Black's future career as a TV pundit, but ought

Dog-tired

in Kuala

Lumpur

but dogged

ATHLETICS

IWAN THOMAS had every excuse not to earn the Commonwealth 400

metres title in Kuala Lumpur. In winning his personal battle with his domestic rival Mark Richardson at

the vious month's European Change Ships, the 24-year-old washing had established himself the British No 1.

As such, he was selected for the British team to contest the World Cup in Johannesburg on the eve of

the Commonwealth athletics pro-

In South Africa, Thomas per-formed mightily, winning the individual event at full stretch from Jerome Young of the United States,

and putting in maximum effort

in the following day's relay despite

having to chase a lost cause on the

Thomas was dog-tired. But, un-like Wales's other European champ-

ion, Colin Jackson, he decided to

race for his country in an effort to

burg, arriving at Kuala Lumpur in

the early hours of Tuesday morning.

a day before he had to race in two

Little wonder that he decided it was worth investing some of his

\$50,000 prize money in upgrading

In the meantime, Richardson,

whose early-season' win over

Olympic champion Michael John-

son in Oslo had established a high

qualifying rounds.

his plane ticket.

complete an outstanding triple. Thus he spent 10 hours on an overnight flight from Johannes-

gramme.

final leg.

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Ten command performances

Win which put Arsenal on course for the title

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

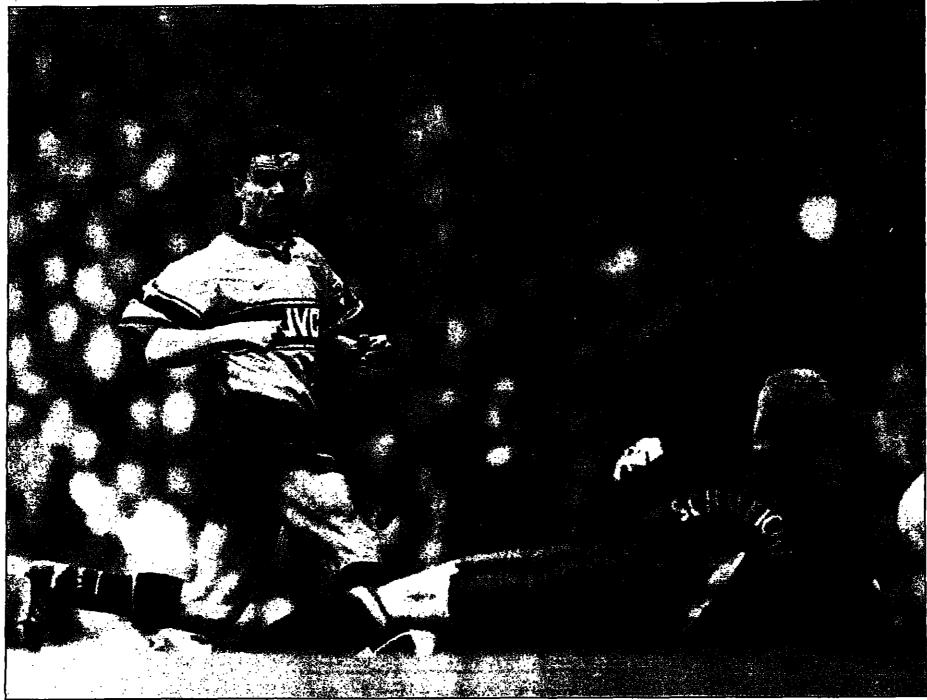
AS THE Arsenal players celebrated with the adoring pocket of their supporters tucked into the corner of Old Trafford, you just knew. It could not have been more obvious if a ghostly hand, taking time out from picking National Lottery winners. had descended from the Manchester sky and pointed at the yellow-shirted band before sprinkling them with stardust. Here were the next Premiership champions.

Arsenal's 1-0 win over Manchester United in March was not as dramatic as their famous title-clinching victory at Anfield in 1989 but it was almost as conclusive. The pretenders had been to the home of the champions and won with more ease than the scoreline suggested. They were still only second in the table but, as you looked from the jubilant Arsenal players, their faces glowing with confidence, to the wounded figure of Peter Schmeichel limping from the arena, there was a sense of the passing of an era.

Arsenal, unbeaten in nine games. had arrived at Old Trafford nine points behind but with three matches - all away - in hand. United were still favourites but canny punters had already taken the precaution of accepting Manchester-based bookie Fred Done's premature offer to pay out on bets backing them for the title.

While the visitors were without David Seaman and Ian Wright, neither were missed. United's injury problems were more grave, Ryan Giggs' absence would prove to be as telling as the decision to play John Curtis at right-back.

Curtis, a promising and cultured England youth international, is still to recover from the chasing Marc . in prime form and Curtis was removed to left-wing, then the bench, by the hour. He has since been sup-



Arsenal's Marc Overmars beats Manchester United's Peter Schmeichel to score the goal that opened up the Premiership race at Old Trafford

Even so, when he left the field United were still level, Overmars having missed two good chances. He had also had a decent penalty ap-

peal, for a foul by Curtis, denied. United had created nothing, only Overmars gave him. Overmars was a wayward pass by Lee Dixon and a linesman's error giving Andy Cole a brace of chances which he squandered. Their attacks, lacking width, had foundered on the French axis of

Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira. If anyone got past them they met Tony Adams and Martin Keown in "they shall not pass" mode. After that stood Alex Manninger, such an able deputy some doubted if Seaman would win his place back. This defensive excellence was the bedrock of Arsenal's championship campaign, the Dutch partnership of rash foray upfield, damaged a ham-Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp, string.

with support from Ray Parlour, the cutting edge.

A dozen minutes from time, with United re-organising after injury, Arsenal's pressure told. Headers from Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka released Overmars who sprinted through to score. United's agony was complete when Schmeichel, in a

"United are still in the best position," said Arsène Wenger of Arsenal. Only one of them was telling the

It would be another five weeks before Arsenal assumed the leadership as United, closing with five wins and two draws, fought all the way. But

Cannon-fodder

pull off miracle

"We looked tired," said the Man- Arsenal's games in hand proved dechester United manager, Alex Fercisive. They won the next eight matches, sealing the title with a crushing 4-0 victory at home to

Everton on 3 May.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel: Cis (Thorniey, 52). G Neville, Berg, Irwin: Beham, Johnsen (May, 78). Scholes, P Nev (Solskjaer, 76): Sheringham, Cole.

Append J. 46-21: Manginger, Dinn, Koo

Kitik . rite -

When t

inthin.

Blood-an

Iwan Thomas races down the straight to land the 400 metres

gold medal in Kuala Lumpur level of expectation, had turned down a relay spot in the World Cup

to acclimatise himself for Kuala Defeat in the European final had been, in his own words, his "lowes," low" since he started running competitively. He had left Hungary hungry for revenge, and it seemed he would be likely to take advantage of

his leg-weary rival. Thomas, the early part of whose season had been jeopardised by a hamstring injury, looked understandably laboured in negotiating his heats. But as he prepared for the semi-final, he hit a bigger problem

- his back seized up.
"I was in tears with the pain and I came close to knocking the Games on the head," said Thomas, who re-ceived emergency treatment until four o'clock in the morning on the day of the semi-final. On he went even finding time to joke in the home straight with his team-mate Jamie Baulch

As the gun went in the final, the two Britons found themselves the focus of attention, as they had been in Budapest. Arriving in the home straight, Thomas appeared to have a slight lead and a final surge from Richardson seemed inevitable. It came - but Thomas hung on to cross the line eight-tenths of a second ahead of his grimacing rival in 44.52sec. Thomas had claimed his third major title in the space of a

"When I came off that last bend my legs felt dead, but everyone else's must have been worse," he said, before paying tribute to the efforts of his coach, Mike Smith, the man who guided the early career of the man whom Thomas succeeded as the British record-holder, Roger

'All winter he makes me run over the sand dunes at Merthyr Mawr and I curse him. He just tells me to

Brilliance and Brawn combined provides a classic

A FORMULA ONE world championship that promised so little in its early stages blossomed into one of the more absorbing of recent seasons, with a duel between Mika Hakkinen and Michael Schumacher which went to the final Grand Prix.

Hakkinen's ultimate success was reward for McLaren Mercedes' superiority over the year - and also in no small measure to the Finn's resilience, notably in the penultimate round, at the Nürburgring, where he stunned Schumacher with an emphatic victory after starting behind the Ferrari No 1 and his team-mate, Eddie Irvine.

Mostly, however, Hakkinen's wins were routine, disciplined displays, supported when necessary by David Coulthard. Schumacher, as usual, had to work harder for his successes, cajoling inferior machinery, outwitting McLaren with clever tactics and punishing them for any error.

He demonstrated familiar - some would say unacceptable - aggression to win in Argentina and Canada, but

JUVENILE EARS may have been

clipped after some racing aficiona-

dos got round to viewing the video

porridge ground made treacherous

by the persistent downpour, a race

when only six of the 37 runners fin-

ished, a race in which three of the

combatants fought their last battle.

murderous contest it is easy to imag-

ine that someone has been meddling

with the recording equipment. The

race appears to be run almost en-

tirely in slow motion. The winner

takes almost 11 minutes to get round,

in a time over two minutes slower

bulk home like a tug that day goes

by the name of Earth Summit. He is

perhaps the slowest good horse

On the Gloucestershire gallops of

The little horse which towed the

than Mr Frisk's course record.

there has ever been.

When you watch a replay of this

This was the race that was run in

of the Grand National of 1998.

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

there were no dissenting voices, merely eulogies after his extraordinary triumph in Hungary. It was the outstanding perfor-

mance of the season, incorporating Schumacher's incomparable speed and car control opportunism, ingenuity and team-work. Every member of the German's crew played a role, none more so than the Ferrari technical director, Ross Brawn.

Schumacher lined up third on the Budapest grid, behind Hakkinen and Coulthard, and the auguries were no better for the Italian camp when their man was held at bay in the first sector of the race. Worse still for Schumacher on a circuit which offers scant chance for overtaking, he emerged from his first pit-stop trailing Jacques Villeneuve.

The situation called for swift and

RACING

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

pulled off the main track to let other

horses by. When a member of the

string requires confidence-boost-

ing by slaughtering a workmate

they put him side by side with this

If, however, they had made the Ti-

tanic out of the same material as

Earth Summit's body there would

have been a lot of little ice cubes

floating in the north Atlantic. This

equine creature's relish for tough-

He has fought all his life has Earth

Summit. As a young horse his

hooves used to curl forward like Al-

addın's slippers, but he has over-

come that physical infirmity. Aintree

continued his National collection as

established plodder.

ness is unprecedented.

his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, he already has the Scottish and

Earth Summit occasionally has to be Welsh versions in his scrapbook.



Michael Schumacher celebrates a stunning victory in Hungary

imaginative action. Brawn now opted for a three-stop plan. Its success would depend on the element of surprise, a slick team operation, and the brilliance of the world's best driver.

Part one of the mission was accomplished as Schumacher dived into the pits again, to be followed by Coulthard in McLaren's misguided attempt to cover. The Ferrari returned to the track not only clear of Coulthard but also in front of Hakkinen, whose car had a problem.

This was an unexpected bonus, but still the most demanding part of Schumacher's task lay ahead if he was to retain his lead after a third stop. Brawn spelled out the requirement over the pit-to-car radio link: open up a 25-second gap in 19 laps. "Thank you very much," came

Schumacher set about the challenge like a man possessed, hurtling the Ferrari to the very edge of adhesion, and once beyond it. He recovered and resumed his seemingly demented charge, undaunted by return visit to the summit of club the bumpy and potentially catas-

Schumacher's sardonic response.

It all made sense, however, when he pulled into the pits for his third stop and shot back out again, still leading a demoralised Coulthard comfortably. One of his finest victo-



Earth Summit's finest moment as he lands the Grand National trophy on a silver platter, Philippe

in Bordeaux

31 JANUARY, Bordeaux: Heineken Cup Final, Bath 19 Brive 18. Call it fate, call it divine will, call

it whatever you fancy; there were strange forces at work in the Stade Lescure on European Cup final day last January. Brive, the reigning champions and overwhelming favourites, possessed all the guns and all the bullets; fierce tight forwards, a dynamic back row, international half-backs, a pair of Linford Christies on the wings and the best goal-kicker in Europe. More importantly still, they were on familiar soil. It would take something a good deal more potent than the most vulnerable Bath side in recent memory to deny the Frenchmen a rugby's Parnassus.

Or so we thought. Bath crossed the Channel with some distinctly shop-soiled personnel - Jon Callard : was summoned from the back end of beyond to kick whatever goals might present themselves, while Jeremy Guscott was playing only his second serious game; in seven months - but during a week of in-tensive soul-searching on the train-ing pitch, they somehow cornered the market in the intangibles of bigtime sport: belief, spirit, desire, a col-lective willingness to shed every last bead of sweat, every last drop of blood, in pursuit of their ultimate prize. And in the end, those uncoachable qualities carried the day.

It made for an unforgettable spectacle, enhanced by a surge of noise from 6,000 travelling Recreation Grounders as they slowly cottoned on to the fact that their team were contenders rather than cannon-fodder. From the depths of an unpropitious opening 40 minutes, during which Olivier Magne and Sebastien Carrat threatened breakaway tries and Christophe Lamaison looked capable of kicking penalties from anywhere inside his own half as well as the opposition's. Callard began to register a presence on the scoreboard. He would eventually claim all 19 Bath points, including the only try of the match and a late penalty that left the travelling supporters in need of a communal change of underwear.

In a sense, Brive handed Bath the

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

Carbonneau, that arch-pragmatist of a scrum-half, showed a hitherto unsuspected streak of tactical naivete in ignoring the brilliance of his own backs and attempting to batter his enemy into submission. Given that Bath had little going for them apart from the stomach for a fight, the French game plan was a nonsense. When, deep in injury time, Lamaison's nerve finally failed him - the centre miscued an awkward but



Andy Nicol, the Bath captain, holds aloft the Heineken Cup

perfectly kickable penalty from the left touchline - the folly of the champions' approach was laid bare for all to see. Except that few in the stadium were in much of a condition to see anything; there were too many tears - French tears of frustration and bewilderment, West Country tears of relief and unrestrained joy - for that. And as the piercing emotion of that sunlit winter's afternoon in France began to subside, the moral of the piece was obvious, International rugby may generate most of the money, but it will never be the whole of trhe game.

£370,000 in prize money.

perhaps the most arduous race ever

seen on a British racecourse.

that ignited the sporting year

A great unsporting occasion at Nottingham

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE

IT IS perhaps indicative of the confusing times we live in that the greatest cricketing moment of the year, that "jewel of duels" between Allan Donald's and Michael Atherton at Trent Bridge, owed its genesis and subsequent intensity to an unsporting one - namely that of a batsmen failing to walk.

Of all sports, cricket has long carried the heaviest behavioural baggage. For once, though, the drama outweighed the morality play, as Donald, arguably the world's fastest bowler tried to dislodge Atherton, one of the game's great unflappables.

England's cricketers have not had much to crow about recently, but the series win over South Africa at the end of last summer has been one of them. On the verge of conceding a insurmountable deficit at Old Trafford, they clung onto a draw before winning the final two Tests and the series.

The first of those victories, Trent Bridge was a ding-dong affair that neither side could be said to have won or lost until lunch on the final day. Atherton's offering, a defiant unbeaten 98, was a priceless knock, though one sullied for old-school etiquettists by his refusal to walk on 28, when a short ball from Donald after ea on the fourth day took his glove n its way to the wicketkeeper. But if television confirmed the contact, Steve Dunne, the umpire did not, and Atherton, despite the South African's

appeals, was given not out. But there in a way lies the rub. Without the controversy, the specating public would have been denied the most thrilling 40 minutes of the sporting year as Donald, incensed by the injustice, literally tried to remove Atherton, by any means nec-

Perhaps an "element of needle" calways required for sport to forget itself and spill over into the visceral tussles of real life. That is certainly what appeared to happen to Donald, who, close to being spent following his exertions earlier in the day, somehow managed to summon another burst of energy and so escalate the fray.

Although clearly furious - he had already barked something in Afrikaans at Atherton – he did not let his fury get the better of him. Inhe somehow focused it on the



England's Mike Atherton and Allan Donald of South Africa, caught in a rare moment of non-hostility at Trent Bridge

repeatedly with short balls from around the wicket, an angle that, for right-handers at least, increases the level of intimidation. It was the fast-bowling equivalent of sticking 22 yards away, peppering him pins into a voodoo doll, except that

Atherton was marginally more mobile and therefore able to influence his destiny.

In such situations, terms such as technique and temperament are irrelevant. The battle was being

fought on molecular level and it was were no winners and losers just two really a question of whose adrenalin would give out first. As it happened a book shot for three broke the spell and Donald took his sweater.

ingley, when England won the series, the true toll of that ferocious 40 minutes came to light. And it cost South At the time, it seemed that there Africa dear.

Rusedski shows off his resilience in Paris match

THE CENTRE court at the All England Club is adorned with ampelopsis creeper, whereas the sloping outer walls of the Palais Omnisports in the Bercy district of Paris are decorated with strips of turf, creating the impression of a Wimbledon

It was there in November that Greg Rusedski shed the frustration that had gnawed at him since a painful episode in June by outplaying Pete Sampras, who was en route to finishing the season as the world No 1 for a record sixth consecutive

Rusedski's triumph in straight sets against Sampras in the final of the \$2.55m (£1.55m) Paris Open made him the first British player to win one of the ATP Tour's Super 9 events, which are ranked second only to the four Grand Slams. The only other Briton to have beaten Sampras was Jeremy Bates, when the American was a callow 17-yearold in his first season on the professional circuit, showing only a glimmer of his potential to win 11 Grand Slam singles titles.

Five months earlier, when Sampras was in the process of winning his fifth Wimbledon singles title, Rusedski had been unable to complete a first-round match against Australia's Mark Draper because of an ankle injury suffered while competing at the Queen's Club in London a fortnight before. On leaving Wimbledon, Rusedski did not play again for two months.

Prior to the indoor contest in Paris, Sampras had won his six previous matches against Rusedski. The first was at Wimbledon in 1995, shortly after the Canadian-born Rusedski pledged himself to the British cause, bringing with him lots of ambition, a big heart, a mighty lefthanded serve and groundstrokes that tended to be as wide as his

able to play the the most impressive me ahead by quite a bit." 6-3, after an hour and 44 minutes. He complemented the power of his serve-volley game with confident returns and blistering groundstrokes, particularly on the backhand, and showed admirable resilience when the going became bumpy in the

Rusedski, having saved four break points in the second game of was his. the second set, was unable to deny Sampras in the sixth game, netting a volley after the American re-

TENNIS BY JOHN ROBERTS

the defending champion, proved fallible when serving for the set at 5-4, twice double-faulting, crucially on break point. Rusedski won the tiebreak, 7-4, and took a 3-0 lead in the third set before Sampras won an-

The measure of Rusedski's victory, aside from a cheque for \$393,000, was calculated by his opponent. "He's been hot all week and has pretty much kicked everybody's



the final of the Paris Open

By the time he met Sampras for butt," Sampras said. "This match the seventh time, Rusedski was was pivotal. It really would have put

> every ranking point that he could lay a racket on to prevent the Chilean Marcelo Rios from ruining his chances of moving ahead of Jimmy Connors, with whom he shared the record of finishing as the world No 1 for five years in a row. In the event, Sampras would have to wait only a few more weeks before the record

Rusedski, however, was left dreaming of a time when he may still become the world No 1: "If I play like turned a second serve. But Sampras, I did today."

When the Eagles did the unthinkable at Wembley

SHEFFIELD EAGLES were the longest-priced outsiders in the Silk Challenge Cup final for years, so to seat Wigan – and do so with something to spare - ranks as one of the year's most memorable sporting

Not even their home city seemed particularly enthused by the prospect of the Eagles at Wembley, judging by the empty rows at their end of the ground. But John Kear and his players believed that not only could they win it, but that they definitely would; and that is the way they played from the start, with their prop forwards, Paul Broadbent and Dale Laughton, tearing into Wigan like it was the only match of their lives.

ference between the two sides on the maverick of a player with a chequered

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

afternoon. Wigan, despite an unaccustomed two year absence from the big day, were relaxed to the point of treating the occasion as routine. Sheffield were ferociously keyed-up, but also managed to be the more cohesive and organised side.

Mark Aston, their long-serving scrum-half, won the Lance Todd Trophy for the way he outmanoeuvred Wigan and particularly the way his kicking game put Andy Farrell in the shade. It might equally well have That, perhaps, sums up the dif- gone to Dave Watson, an unreliable

career in three countries. Kear took a calculated risk by bringing him on board and he was a vital contributor at Wembley, both with his last-ditch tackling and his ability to run the ball

at the opposition. Neutrals have rarely been as happy at Wembley as they were when Sheffield ran out 17-8 winners. It was impossible not to warm to a good bunch of blokes and a genuinely worthy club as they staggered onto their bus with cardboard boxes full of champagne. But what of the medium-term consequences of such a remarkable afternoon?

Well, hopes that their achievement would win over the doubting and indifferent mass of the Sheffield public have not yet been fulfilled. More predictably, when the two



Sheffield's Keith Senior powers past Gary Conolly of Wigan during the Eagles' Challenge Cup victory

the following weekend, Wigan crushed them 36-6. Not entirely

teams met again in Super League applied before, was that victory led almost seamlessly into disintegration. Of Sheffield's Wembley squad, surprising, either, to those who have at least six will not be with the club seen comparable circumstances when next season begins.

Hamed's defence of the WBO feath-

performance heroic. "Did you ever

see such guts? "People told me

that Eubank has made a mockery of

boxing, but he fought tonight as

less glaze that came over Thomp-

son's face when Eubank put him

down in the fourth round; about the

heavy blows Thompson fired in re-

turn to secure his title, the immense

Eubank is a creature of ego.

Were he anything else, he wouldn't

have stood up to punches that

caused him to spend a night under

will shown by both men.

Others would speak about the life-

though his life was on the line."

Rose found game so easy among Birkdale dunes

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL

IT WAS a time to dream. Christmas for Justin Rose came nearer the longest day of the year than the shortest. At tea-time on a wild and windy Saturday afternoon a 17-yearold amateur led the 127th Open Championship. Rose walked off the 12th green with a par to lead by one

from Brian Watts. Not since Harold Hilton at Hoylake in 1897 had a British amateur won the silver claret jug. There may have been 24 holes to play, but that did not stop Rose thinking ahead. Victory would be difficult to top, or would it? "I guess when I'm 18 you've got to win the Masters, at 19 win the US Open and at 20 win the USPGA," Rose joked. Rose smiled erweight title, thought Eubank's a lot during those few magical days on the dunes of the Lancashire coast, clearly oblivious to what was going on around him.

Royal Birkdale was testing the eatest players in the world and finding most of them wanting. But Rose's 66 on the Friday, in the second round, was the best score of the day, the next best coming from the eventual champion, Mark O'Meara, with a 68. The round equalled the lowest by an amateur in the Open, set by Frank

Stranahan and Tiger Woods. The following day Woods could do no better than a 77 and Nick Price had an 82. Rose, who started the day tied for second alongside the world No 1 and the former Open champion, scored a 75 to lie fifth, three behind Watts.



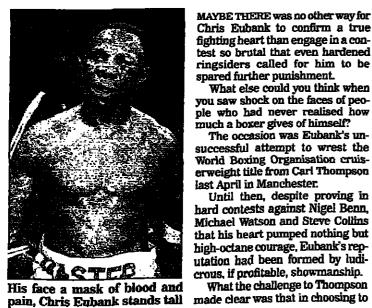
Justin Rose put big names in the shade at Royal Birkdale

a gallery who were in no doubt they had a new hero. "Starting out I didn't realise it would be anything like that," Rose said. "On every hole I got an ovation. It was incredible, people shouting my name. It pushed me on I saw myself as Jack Nicklaus coming up the 18th."

Rose was never quite in contention on the final day and seemed to be making a mess of the last until his last shot as an amateur, a chip from 45 vards over a couple of bunkers, found the hole. Never has respectful silence from the massed ranks around the 18th green turned to a tumultuous ovation quicker, He deserved it, finishing tied fourth. the best result by an amateur in the Open for 45 years.

It was a brilliant finale to the best week of a young man's life, the unveiling of a bright, new talent. From the perspective of an aspiring professional trying to make his way so far having missed 10 cuts out of 10 and failed to gain his player's card on the European tour - it is a glori. ous memory. May it not become a

Blood-and-guts display earned showman new respect



MAYBE THERE was no other way for Chris Eubank to confirm a true fighting heart than engage in a contest so brutal that even hardened ringsiders called for him to be spared further punishment.

What else could you think when you saw shock on the faces of people who had never realised how much a boxer gives of himself?

The occasion was Eubank's unsuccessful attempt to wrest the World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title from Carl Thompson last April in Manchester.

Until then, despite proving in hard contests against Nigel Benn, Michael Watson and Steve Collins that his heart pumped nothing but high-octane courage, Eubank's reputation had been formed by ludicrous, if profitable, showmanship. What the challenge to Thompson

BOXING By KEN JONES

shape his career at middle and super-middleweight around a series of contrived defences, contests that did not require him to train diligently, Eubank had sold himself short when he could have been the British fighter of the 90s.

Giving away more than half a stone, Eubank showed a warrior's mettle, fighting with such spirit that a left hook in the second round brought the prospect of a remarkable victory until he chose to stand

off the visibly-stunned champion. Eubank, who also dropped Thompson in the fourth, paid dearly for this perverse decision, finishing the contest with one eye

working for American television on completely closed in a mass of brutalised facial tissue and spitting blood. He had never been in such pain or looked more ring-soiled.

Drawn to boxing by the glitz of television presentation, conditioned by Naseem Hamed's comparatively bloodless dismantling of carefully selected opponents, women in the audience averted their gaze from Eubank's mangled features.

Admitting that he had thought more than once of stopping the contest, the referee Roy Francis said, "It was a dilemma. Chris took so much punishment that I was only a second away from stepping between them, but I had to give him every chance because he kept coming back with punches. It makes me feel like weeping; he's a guy I like so

The former heavyweight champion, George Foreman, who was

observation in hospital after undergoing a brain scan. If it was any consolation he at last had the respect of his peers. In bloody defeat he was



PERFORMANCES THAT SET THE SPORTING YEAR ON FIRE P18-19



Elton John accuses Hoddle

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

SIR ELTON JOHN yesterday launched an astonishing attack on Glenn Hoddle, accusing him of "resenting" David Beckham's fame, ability and relationship with Victoria Adams, Beckham's pop-singer girlfriend.

The Watford chairman also revealed he had been in touch with Paul Gascoigne and was helping the Middlesbrough midfielder in his fight against alcoholism, an addiction the millionaire rock star has suffered from himself.

The 52-year-old made his remarks in a rare interview to mark his return to active service at Watford, after two hectic years personally and professionally had limited his involvement. Speaking at the First Division's club's Vicarage Road ground, he also said he felt the Premiership had "spirailed out of control" with "mediocre players being transferred for £2-3m".

Many would agree with that. but his remarks about Beckham are sure to cause controversy. "I felt for Becks at the World Cup," he said. "He was very shabbily treated by the England manager. I think it is resentment on Glenn Hoddle's part. Maybe he wasn't as successful as David, he had a great career but he didn't have a great England career. I think he resents that and he resents that he has a nice girlfriend and is famous." On a more conciliatory note he added: "I think a couple of the things Glenn Hoddie said are right, David does have to learn discipline on the

Beckham and Adams, who is better known as "Posh Spice", stayed at Sir Elton's house in the south of France after the World Cup and, he added, "love each other very much. I keep a is one of the most talented players England has produced. I think he will eventually go abroad and cope with it. He has seen what his girlfriend has had to cope with and she does so very well. The Spice Girls work their balls off - if you'll pardon the expression.

"I do like to help anyone with snecial talent and if there is anyway I can help them cope with the pressures I try and ring up

Thus the call to Gascoigne. "I spoke to Paul [Gascoigne] on the phone a couple of weeks ago at Middlesbrough to see if he wanted any help and to say if he is a very hard thing to do to give



Sir Elton John (right) and Graham Taylor at Vicarage Road yesterday. Sir Elton said Glenn Hoddle treated Beckham 'very shabbily' at the World Cup

need friends, people with a bit football is dire and boring," he of experience, to help you.

close eye on David. I think he are the same kind of person, the World Cup, they were one England manager but there is late-70s] and went to Football has spiralled out of control. We self-destructive in lots of ways. I wasted a lot of my time doing blah blah blah. You are a genius you have such skill, this is a great opportunity to prove to everybody, including the England manager, that you are a great footballer.'

"I said: You are going to have to knuckle down and do some hard work and do as you are told. I can promise if you do the results will come.' I am very proud of Paul for what he is doing at the moment - just as I am proud of Tony Adams and

Paul Merson." Sir Elton also said he felt Hoddle "shot himself in the did I would be there for him, It foot" during the World Cup "with all that nonsense about rang his doctor who, fearing a

up that addictive lifestyle. You Michael Owen. International tion was appalling and France wouldn't want it, it is a thank- Then I got there and thought: regarded the Manchester Unitadded. "I don't see any point in "I wrote him a letter when he it. Everyone is so negative. I

within a couple of hours of

dying due to the throat ab-

scess which required an emer-

gency operation last month,

he had been suffering from a

sore throat for some time prior

to his health suddenly worsen-

ing to the extent that, on Tues-

day 10 November, he was

coughing blood. His wife, Rita.

Tuesday's Solution

EUCAN CLYDEBANK E K G U II R E SIIIVERIJUNING U A R I II C B S

AMYL SIINOLOGIIST TESBMRA EURO AMPEREHOUR

knee? (8)

director? (8)

cheers? (8)

in mines (6)

16 Papal trip call for

13 USA route? Go in a de-

tour, over the top (10)
15 Might one fall for a film-

17 Musical stir in California

19 Some adopt images that are the very best (6)

20 Climbing-aids advanced

21 Body of students keep-ing Sunday, by agree-ment (6)

The Watford manager said

writes Glenn Moore.

yesterday that he had come moned an ambulance.

the most boring team ever to less task being England manwin it."

Sir Elton added: "Hoddle [the FA]. I remember when I was in treatment saying: We thought England played well in would not be my choice as first became chairman (in the better. "The Premier League board who are going to line of the most inventive teams, but no one else. Only Terry Ven- League meetings I thought: I I thought the overall competiables seems to revel in it. I must have so much to learn'.

GRAHAM TAYLOR revealed heart attack, immediately sum- 53-year-old former England

his throat which, combined with

was blocking his windpipe. "It

was a bit scary," Taylor said yes-

terday. "The doctor said I had

two hours left and if my wife

hadn't called they would not

after being released the

have got to me in time."

It soon became apparent that

Taylor's brush with death

fection, necessitating another the problem was an abscess in 36 hours in hospital. Having delegated managethe effects of a chest infection, ment duties to Kenny Jackett had swollen to the extent that it and Luther Blissett, Taylor is slowly returning to work at the First Division club. He is also having speech therapy to correct a breathing problem which led to the development of the abscess. "It does put things in Nor did it end there. A week perspective," Taylor said. fter being released the "None of us are indestructible."

manager picked up a sinus in-

'My God, these people are runager and working for that lot ning football?

> see very mediocre players going for £2-3m. I see figures bandied around like £18m for Alan Shearer, a player who still hasn't found his form after coming back from injury. It's a joke. I'm not having a go at Shearer but if people want to pay that they have more money than sense. And when you see some players on the pitch you think: 'For Chrissakes, you are earning so much money and you are strolling around'. They can't pass a ball, can't tackle and get sent off on a regular basis. It's

money for old rope."

ed-Sky TV deal as "extremely unhealthy". He said: "It's all He did not feel it had got any very well for the fat cats on the their pockets, but why would United supporters want Ru-

> It was a bravura performance of the sort that often leads to a disrepute charge. Sir Elton had a word about that as

pert Murdoch to run their

"This bringing the game into disrepute for saying things - I always laugh about that People should be free to say what they like. And how much were they going to give to the Welsh FA? I thought the intention of setting up the Premier League was to create the finest league in Europe but you Sir Elton also said he was see from the results in Europe "very uncomfortable with tele- it isn't. I don't even think it is vision's hold on the game" and in the top three."

Premier League ready to fight OFT

BY NICK HARRIS

UP TO 10 of the country's leading clubs, including Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool, could break away and form a domestic super league if the Premier League loses its court case with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) that starts in January, a League spokesman said yesterday.

The OFT is bringing legal action against the Premier League, BSkyB and the BBCto bring an end to the collective bargaining for television de by top-flight clubs. If the OFF wins its case - which will cost the Premier League £7.5m of an estimated £30m total cost to all parties – individual chibs will be able to negotiate their own deals with whichever broad casters offer the most money The clubs currently do deals and split revenues collectively.

Mike Lee, a Leagaig spokesman, said if clubs we forced to make separate tele vision deals it could "fatally un dermine" the competitive nature of the Premiership by creating an unbridgeable gap between rich and poor Fixture chaos, the establishment of mini-cartels among clubs led by television companies and a lack of investment in the rest of the game could also follow, he said.

The OFT insists it is acting. to defend the rights of consumers, arguing that the Premier League artificially inflates the cost of football and restricts fans' access to watching live games on television.

Lee said his greatest fear is that the country's richest clubs would set up their own television stations, offer home games to viewers on pay-perview and forever end the principle at the heart of the English league system - that smaller clubs can aspire to the top of the game.

Of the prospect of a breakaway group going it alone if the case went against them, the League admitted: "We can't rule it out."

Some of the country's biggest clubs are in a no-lose situation, guaranteed healthy teles. vision incomes if the Least wins and even healthier in comes if the OFT wins. Lee said, however, that all 20 clubs support the League's position.

An OFT spokeswoman played down fears of football being thrown into crisis should the League lose the case. "Dire warnings about the consequences of breaking up a cartel are not new," she said.

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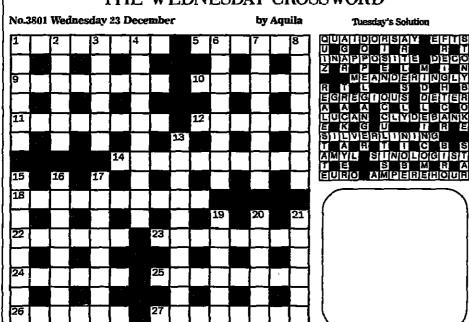
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FI

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 Fixed angle of skate,

One does not touch the waist in this dance (6) Kind clever to swallow isinglass? (8)

10 Change into suit (6) 11 Tour of places of local interest (3-5)

12 Importance of accent (6) 2 14 Importunes wantonly, carrying on (10) 18 Entertainers bug daugh-

ter's replies, we hear (3-4 22 High-ranking sailor in hold (6)

23 Gay inept sort who yet became a mummy? (8) 24 Doctor uses recipe for a light dessert (6) 25 They keep track of

lizards (8) 26 O'Neill adaptation of some black art-form (6) 27 Two donkeys passing the post? One should make a killing (8)

Little fellow with paper round is frozen (6) Having a bow in this po-

sitioning of arms? (6) Natural aptitudes in noisy hide-outs (6) One, with Canadian banks, setting up law centres (2,8) Surpasses, with public work soon to start (8)

Private ice-store melting? (8) Is worker, getting hon-

Bosman receives £312,000

JEAN-MARC BOSMAN, the Belgian footballer whose landmark court action transformed the transfer system in Europe. finally reached a settlement yesterday in his own case. The Belgian football federation agreed to pay Bosman £312,000, ending years of litigation between the two parties.

Bosman (pictured right) went to the courts after his club, FC Liège, refused to allow him to move at the end of his contract to Dunkirk in France without a transfer fee, leaving the player without a club. Although Bosman won his case at the European Court strictions on the number of EU of Appeal in December 1995, by players have also been lifted.



then it was too late to revive his career. He has spent the intervening three years caught up in appeals to Belgium's

courts. Despite his own problems, Bosman's case has benefited players across Europe. Players reaching the end of their contracts can now move freely between clubs within the European Union without any transfer fees being paid, while re-

Dalglish group undeterred THE CONSORTIUM seeking con- cash-for-votes scandal. trol of Celtic has withdrawn its

takeover bid, while making it clear that it has not given up the

The group, led by the former Celtic player Kenny Dalglish, the Simple Minds singer Jim Kerr and the businessman Jim McAvoy, said that without being granted a meeting by the club's managing director Fergus Mc-Cann, who holds a 50.3 per cent majority, they are powerless.

Graeme Jack, speaking for the consortium, said: "It's a difficulty for us to prepare revised proposals in line with the majority shareholder if we are being denied discussions with him."

Fifa yesterday played down fears that Britain are set to lose their automatic vice-president's position on the executive committee of world football's gov-

A Fifa spokesman said: "Experience shows that it's not that

easy to change the statutes. The igenda at the Fifa Congress [which takes place next July] is votes to get a motion through." Paul Alcock says he could

take legal action against Paolo Di Canio for the push that earned the Italian an 11-match ban. The referee has been undergoing physiotherapy to combat the injuries he sustained.

"Since the incident I have had continuous pins and needles down my left leg." Alcock said. "I was unable to sleep without nainkillers and it has been hard for me and my family."

Liverpool are being linked with a move for the Milan goalkeeper, Jens Lehmann. The Anerning body in the wake of the is keen to recruit a new No 1 and 68 per cent Everton holding.

Milan officials claim he has made an inquiry for the out-offavour German. Milan are looking for around £3m.

Southampton have pulled out of a double bid for the South always fairly limited. You need 102 American strikers Waldir Perez and Adolfo Valencia. The Saints' manager, David Jones, has cancelled the £2.2m deal for Perez as the Peruvian, who plays for Alianza Lima, while Valencia, a Colombian, has been sent back after one training session.

Peter Johnson is negotiating to sell his interest in Tranmere while waiting for a bid for a tranche of his Everton shares.

Johnson, who quit as Everton chairman last month, has until 31 December to dispose of his stakes in either club. Everton's vice-chairman, Bill Kenwright, is believed to have enough backers field manager Gérard Houllier to buy 29.9 per cent of Johnson's

Gooch and Graveney blast 'abject' England performance

good wicket in a match domi-

DAVID GRAVENEY, the chairman of the England selectors, said his team's performance in losing to an Australian XI in Hobart yesterday was "unacceptable". Graveney was speaking after England had lost by nine wickets as their opponents scored 376 for the loss of only

one wicket on the final day. Greg

Blewett, who cannot get into the

Australia Test team, scored

213 not out, following his un-

beaten 169 in the first innings.

the tour manager, spoke of

In Hobart, Graham Gooch,

BY DAVID CLOUGH

CRICKET

match, while Graveney, speaking from his home in Bristol, was even more critical. "It would have been a hard job to defend any sort of total

on what was obviously a very

Colour Print. St Albans Road, Walford

said. "But the way it has gone is unacceptable. It appears to England's "abject" effort in the me it was a case of them giving up. Some of the batsmen have had some time at the wicket, although the quality of the bowling they were facing was dividends it deserves only if questionable. Our bowlers, county clubs make a committhough have had a very bad ex- ment to provide fast, true

OPublished by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL, and printed at Micror

Wednesday 23 December 1998

perience and did not do enough to help themselves."

nated by batsmen," Graveney

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988

Pitches back home, meanboth David Lloyd, the England coach, and Graveney, who believe the new structure of English cricket will bear the

pitches that wear for spinners in four days, thereby resembling more closely the surwhile, remain a concern for faces on which most Test matches are played. "There is a limit to the num-

ber of times you can say atmospheric conditions have been the reason for curtailed games," Graveney said of last summer. "We had above average rainfall. But the wick have been too damp, have favoured seam too much and have strangled slow bowling." Derek Pringle, page 16

VEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS •



Premier

Ben Bradlee was editor of The Washington Post in the 1970s when it broke the Watergate scandal. But, for him, last week's events – resignations, a small war and Clinton's impeachment - surpassed even the turmoil of Nixon's final days

All the Presidents' lies



AND SO IT HAS COME TO THIS... Because a flirtatious 22-year-old intern decided not to have the stains from a sexual encounter with the President removed from her dress, William Jefferson Clinton is impeached.

...

...Because America's leading pornographer threatened to out the next Speaker of the House as a multiple philanderer, Robert Livingston throws in the towel, announces he's through with politics, and heads back to civilian life.

...Because the same pornographer lets it be known to a favoured few that he has the goods on y other Congressmen, including at least one who nas expressed an interest in running for president, other top politicians will soon bite the dust.

... Because the secret files of the Starr investigation, not included in the Independent Counsel's public report, but available to members of the House Judiciary Committee, contain more smarmy details about the President's private life, no one can say for sure how this mess will end, much less when. After perhaps the most extraordinary week in American political history - impeachment, resignations and a small war - the experts still recite their mantra: "This isn't about sex."

Well, you could have fooled me.

ANYONE WHO CLAIMS to predict tomorrow's headlines is crazy. During the impeachment hearings, Democrats were almost as critical of President Clintoq as were Republicans. In an effort to persuade colleagues that censure was a viable alternative to removal from office, one Democrat after another

rose to document presidential sins: philandering, perjury, and obstruction of justice. Then, after Clinton was actually impeached, they piled into buses and drove down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. In front of the television cameras they jostled each other for the chance to show their support for the man they had just branded a philanderer, a perjurer and an obstructer of justice.

All this, mind you, when the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll (taken on Saturday and Sunday) shows that more than two out of every three Americans feel the President should not be removed from office, and 79 per cent of them think that too much attention is being paid to the extramarital affairs of elected officials.

This morning, in Washington, almost no one believes that the Senate will really convict the President and remove him from office. Instead there is increasing talk of censuring the President, after his trial has begun but before a verdict has been rendered. (As if impeachment itself somehow is not sufficient censure.)

Opponents of censure point out that a new Congress, with a Democratic majority, can simply repeal any vote of censure taken now. They go on to worry about setting a bad precedent. Could Franklin D Roosevelt have been censured for breaking his promise not to lead America into war? Could Harry Truman, with a popularity rating less than half of Clinton's, have been impeached for firing of the Vietnam war. General Douglas MacArthur?

know the answers to all questions sooner rather than later. What interests me now is how we got into this mess in the first place. Would President Bob Dole find himself in anything like this predicament? No way, surely. Didn't popular wisdom have it that good people were no longer seeking public office because of the salacious curiosity of the press? Starr and his investigators have surely taken care of that one.

One of the reasons we are in such a mess, I believe, is that society has become increasingly, and almost casually, accepting of lying during the last couple of generations. The cost of lying has decreased. The punishment no longer fits the crime. if it ever did. As we have heard endlessly in the last few months, perjury convictions have become hard to secure. (It depends on what the meaning of "is" is.) The risk of getting nailed for a lie seems to have diminished. The highest public figures, the most respected figures in private industry, routinely lie. It is more genteel to say that they routinely tell less than the truth. That avoids the unpleasant facts and makes everyone feel better.

In Washington, spin doctors have been elevated to professional status, and spinning has become an art form. But the difference between spinning and lying is in the eyes of the beholder. Whenever the acceptability of lying increased to a point where it became a fundamental change in American ethics, certainly this change was a fact of life by the time

Successive administrations, beginning with Since I left the editor's chair at The Washington LBJ's, grievously damaged the virtue of truth in Post, I have become much more patient. We will trying to justify the American presence there.

A few months after he became president, Johnson sent his Defense Secretary to Vietnam for a report on what was really going on. McNamara spoke to the generals and the GIs, to Americans and South Vietnamese, civilian and military. In two press conferences between Saigon and Washington, he told the world that he was much encouraged. There finally was reason for optimism.

But McNamara told President Johnson something quite different. Exactly the opposite, in fact. The war in South Vietnam was going to hell in a handbasket. General Westmoreland was going to ask for 200,000 more American troops, and McNamara was going to support his request. We didn't learn this vital truth until the Pentagon papers were published 17 years later, and only then because two American newspapers fought all the way to the Supreme Court for their release.

Did that lie change history? At that moment only 6,000 Americans had lost their lives in Vietnam. Before the truce seven years later, more than 50,000 Americans had lost their lives, plus countless hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. The Nixon lies during Watergate produced the greatest crisis in the history of American government, until now. More than 30 of Nixon's closest associates were convicted and jailed, including the country's chief law en-

forcement officer, Attorney-General John Mitchell. The lies about the Iran-Contra and arms-forhostages affairs scarred the Reagan and Bush presidencies. But only Nixon paid any real price for lying. And by resigning before he was impeached and convicted, he "earned" a pardon from his

successor. He was able to claim for the rest of his life - with some success - that he had been hounded out of the White House by his political enemies. who had confused the public into thinking that dirty tricks during a campaign added up to impeachable violations of the Constitution.

And then we elected William Jefferson Clinton. the most attractive, the most intelligent, the most charismatic, the most experienced American politician since Jack Kennedy at least. But we knew that he and the truth were often on different pages. We knew he hadn't been called "Slick Willie" for nothing. Before we elected him we knew about his sexual proclivities. One member of his Arkansas gubernatorial staff was put in charge of coping with "bimbo eruptions". We knew he had had at least a chequered military career First he said he had never been drafted. Then he said that he had been drafted. First he said he had never had sex with Gennifer Flowers. Then he remembered that he had had sex with her. Once. He finally had to admit he had smoked marijuana. But he hadn't inhaled.

All this, before he was elected President And then came Paula Jones's claim that Clinton had sexually harassed her. The President denied everything, a denial for which he was eventually impeached. And then he agreed to pay Ms Jones

\$850,000 to make her and her claim go away.

And finally, full circle, came the "Valley Girl" Monica Lewinsky, not really a likely candidate to bring a president this close to disgrace. Was it the sex, or was it the lying?

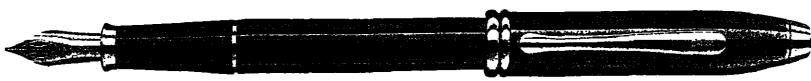
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Rid Iraq of Saddam

Sir: I have read with great interest the reports that the British

Government is in contact with the

particularly of the Minister of State at the Foreign Office Derek

I was not invited to that or any

other meeting although I am one of

opposition and now chairman of

the Free Iraqi Council, the most

Those invited were mainly the

same individuals they met with on

acknowledgement of a letter which I addressed to the Prime Minister,

Mr Blair, on 20 November about the situation in Iraq suggesting action which he might consider in support

of my fellow countrymen who are

the only ones in a position to topple

Military containment of Iraq is

Saddam Hussein, that is living in

Iraq, not in the security of exile.

within American and British

proposed continuation of the

isolation of Iraq and its President

can only strengthen the latter A

firmer platform might be created

for those who might bring about a change if Britain and the United

distribution by the United Nations

of humanitarian aid in Iraq as they

have done in recent military action.

capability at any time; the

States now show as much determination to organise the

SAAD SALEH JABR

President

a number of occasions over the past seven years with, obviously, no

Nor have I yet received

widely representative group of

such exiles in opposition to

Iraqi opposition groups and

Fatchett's meeting with their representatives earlier this month.

the longest serving representatives of exiles in

Saddam Hussein

visible results.

Mandelson's loan

Sir: The disclosure of Peter Mendelson's large loan to purchase a rather upmarket house illustrates how New Labour has become out of touch, showing an attitude of pretentious grandeur compared with so many people who struggle from day to day to keep the roof of what it is often a rather small home over their heads.

MPs, whether in government or opposition, are given a very good allowance to enable them to buy or rent more than adequate accommodation when in London away from their constituency

DAN DRAPER Cowes. Isle of Wight

Sir. I would guess that the majority of people who voted for the Labour Party at the last election did not do so on the understanding that future ministers would choose to "isolate" themselves from some of the workings of their departments. as Peter Mandelson has from DTI decisions affecting Geoffrey Robinson, rather than accept the full responsibility which the job entails.

Could Mr Mandelson please share with us any other areas of his ministerial duties for which he has similarly abrogated responsibility. HARRY ROBERTSON London N13

German invasion

Sir: I am very surprised at Ken Livingstone's claim that Oskar Lafontaine has made no proposal for tax "harmonisation" in the EU ("Charm is not enough - now Blair must take on Murdoch", 17 December). I believe he has quite clearly expressed these sentiments and Gerhard Schröder has stated that it is also German government policy.

creation of a European currency bloc large enough to resist the attacks of speculators which have in the past sabotaged the plans of Labour governments. How much policy latitude does Mr Livingstone imagine future Labour governments would have when monetary policy, fiscal policy, employment policy, and social

Mr Livingstone also lauded the

policy are determined by the EU? A "government" in such circumstances would not be a real government at all and would have no chance of carrying through policies, whether of the right or left, old Labour or new Labour, against the power of the real government in Brussels. Frankfurt, and Berlin.

Lastly, when Mr Livingstone predicts a flood of jobs from Britain if we do not join EMU I must ask why it is that overseas investments in the UK rose by 38 per cent in 1997. Does this suggest that the UK is becoming unattractive as a place for investment because of its decision not, so far, to enter EMU? I think not. PETER GARDNER

Sir. The future is with multilingual, multi-racial and multicultural nation states such as China, Russia, India, North America and Europe. Our future is obviously within Europe, of which we are a part both geographically and historically: the sooner we realise this the better.

In fact in the next century we shall no doubt see similar movements developing involving South America, Africa, Malaysia and the other Malay-speaking countries, the whole of Australasia, Polynesia and Japan and nearby small states and islands.

We cannot turn aside from these inevitable historical movements. and must negotiate with our European partners in amicable terms to harmonise taxation. financial and social matters. We must not be bloody-minded about

We should adopt the euro as soon as possible, not confuse the issue by treating the pound as if it were sacred. The only purpose in having its so-called independence is so that we can adjust its value whenever

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Dressing the cathedral No 3: Dorothy Mathews, a volunteer worker, preparing a mannequin for Ely Cathedral's Nativity scene

Brian Harris

industrial inefficiency causes our manufacturing costs to rise too high: useful in the short term only,

disastrous in the long run. Our Eurosceptics talk like a lot of country bumpkins who think that their tiny village boundaries circumscribe the world. JWHOLMES Hornchurch, Essex

Star of Bethlehem

Sir: Johann Kepler observed on 17 December 1603 a striking conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of Pisces and calculated that a similar conjunction must have occurred in 7BC (Saturday Essay, 19

December). He speculated that this might have been the true year of Jesus' birth, it generally being agreed that the original dating of the nativity to the year designated 1AD by the 6th century abbot Dionysius Exiguus derived from a miscalculation. Kepler found support for his theory in a Jewish rabbinical reference to a Messiah (Christos) appearing, when Saturn and Jupiter would be in conjunction in the constellation

of Pisces. Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great . As Herod died in 4 BC. Jesus would have been born before that. "Then Herod ...slew all the children ... from two years old and under, according to

the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men ... (Matthew 2:16). Therefore the birth would have been at least two vears earlier, say 7-6 BC.

The Magi, being fully aware of the consequences of a rival to the Herod dynasty, deliberately deceived Herod, not only about the place where Jesus was born, but also about the date. The Magians referred to a Samaritan calender which made 7BC the birth year of the Christ, but Herod understood this to be 5 BC. So he waited for two years and when he discovered his mistake looked for children who were two years old. A celestial phenomenon

coinciding with the birth of a king

would be too good an opportunity for Matthew to miss out of his

December 25 is the birthday of Mithras (Sol Invictus), god of the Roman religion jockeying for position with Christianity before the 1st Council of Nicaea. This was convened in 325 by the **Emperor Constantine, ostensibly** to solve the problem created in the Eastern Church by the "heresy" of Arius of Alexandria. which held that Jesus the Christ was not divine but a created

First and foremost, however, Constantine needed the council to create a pre-eminent position of his imperial self. He needed his imperium to resemble the order of heaven, with himself echoing the role of Sol Invictus at the top.

December 25 was a convenient date to transfer worship from Mithras to the Christ without fuss. PRHEMS Cockfosters, Hertfordshire

Sir: The Archbishop of York

humble surroundings of the

"self-glorification" of man

represented by the Dome

Sir: The National Lottery

announced that "since it

awarded its first grant in 1995

created as a result of Charities

Board awards". Many of these

nearly 11,000 jobs have been

Charities Board has

a cathedral.

London SE22

FABIAN ACKER

has drawn our attention to the

manger where Christ was born

compared with the bombastic

("Archbishop attacks Dome".

21 December). I wonder if he

will ever present this view from

By forcing the attending bishops to formulate a belief structure to which "everybody" would agree (or else!), the council tacitly validated the emperor's earthly rule, in return for the imperial acceptance of the bishops and their faith.

Unkind cut

Sir: I read in your newspaper a report by a father about his eightday-old son, who had part of his penis cut off by a man with no medical training ("My son at the cutting edge", 17 December). The procedure was not carried

out as part of any medical treatment. No anaesthetic was given. Alcohol was administered to the baby after the procedure. supposedly a "primitive anaesthetic". I never heard of an anaesthetic being used after a painful procedure, and in any case alcohol is not a suitable anaesthetic in infants. After the cutting the man sucked the

infant's bleeding penis. The man lied to the parents before the assault by reassuring them that the baby would come through it without any upset. In fact even the father (who endorsed this mutilation) reports that the baby was miserable for "a day or

It is not surprising that the mother dreaded the procedure and had to get drunk in order to face the ordeal. She at least understood that her baby was being subjected to a dangerous, unnecessary and painful mutilation, that would

IN BRIEF

jobs were on two or three-year

now going to disappear. NLCB

intentions of its own, has acted

funding. The latter is not going

message tell us all the jobs lost

which have been discontinued?

grants. That means they are

funding, despite any good

as a substitute for public

to pick up the tab now. Will

next Christmas' NLCB

JOHN NICHOLSON

George House Trust,

as a result of good causes

Sir: One way of helping to

reduce the number of teenage

permanently rob him of a body part without his consent.

Babies in this country are being subjected to this treatment every week. Where is the NSPCC? Where is the law of England? Is there no protection for these speechless infants? Surely this is child abuse. JOHN WARREN Consultant physician

Sir: So Jack Shamash circumcised his son knowing the risks and arguments against it because, as he says. "I don't really want my son to look different from me." So now we can amputate healthy tissue from our infants for aesthetic reasons. Where will this end? Is

parents can remove because it doesn't conform to their sense of what looks nice? Infants are born with foreskins because it is an integral part of the anatomy, not an optional extra. Parents may at the moment have the legal right to subject their sons

there any other part of a child that

to surgery without anaesthetic, but do they have the moral right? As baby Nathan grows I hope his parents keep a copy of The Independent. Then he will truly

pregnancies is to stop por-

traying the girls as sympa-

("A new generation of

mothers", 17 December).

mothers – and fathers – as

tragic victims of a consumer

society or failing education

Give then the dignity of

holding them responsible for

as the irresponsible and selfish

children that most of them are.

their actions, and show them

That might deter others.

FRANK STARTUP

Farnham.

Surreu

thetic and even glamorous, as

in the picture accompanying

Stop presenting teenage

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's article

traumatise and mutilate him in ignorance, but were completely aware of the risks and damage they were subjecting him to. SEAN BARTLETT London SE5

know that his parents did not

Bail conditions

Sir: You report on Dr Mandeep Dhami's address to the British Psychological Society under the headline "IPs inconsistent on bail decisions" (17 December), I was one of the magistrates who participated in Dr Dhami's survey. I do not consider Dr Dhami's conclusions fair, for the following

Lay magistrates sit in threes and not as individuals; decisions are therefore based on a consensus of views after all the circumstances have been heard, before it is decided whether or not to grant bail.

There are clear, strict guidelines on the granting or refusal of bail, particularly when bail is refused. Also, when conditional bail is granted conditions are only imposed to ensure that the defendant appears in court and that nothing is said or done to interfere with potential witnesses or the victim. Each case is judged on its individual merits. considering the nature and seriousness of the offence, the possible way it will be dealt with and the views of the Crown Prosecution Service, the police and the defendant or his solicitor.

Dr Dhami's opinion on consistency does not reflect what we actually do when we sit as a tribunal. Surveys such as this may get Dr Dhami an audience at the Psychological Society's conference, but will not secure cooperation from people such as myself in the future. Before commencing any study, Dr Dhami should observe the subjects or institutions in action; hopefully a more objective result would emerge. DAVID WILDING JP Bridge, Kent

The Free Iraqi Council London W8 Top of the class

> Sir: In his attempt to help British commerce become the most competitive in the world, Peter Mandelson seems to have overlooked a sector which already is one of the best in the world: higher education ("Mandelson gives £150m boost to entrepreneurs", 17 December).

> While thousands of Britons fly to New York to take advantage of competitive shop prices, tens of thousands of students from America (and almost every other country in the world) come here for what is still one of the best educations the world can offer at (for Americans at least) very reasonable prices.

The French are aware of the benefits of this. The government there has recently announced a plan to take over our place as second most popular country for study, after America. As well as the skills and money these students bring, education, as the French Foreign Minister said, is "an instrument of power", giving students an understanding of and liking for the culture and working methods of their country of study.

Yet Britain is uniquely well placed to dominate this market nowhere else can offer a world language and easy access for both EU and Commonwealth citizens. While the attempt to make the whole economy of world-class competitiveness is clearly welcome, why do we not make more of world-class services we aiready have? MATTHEW WRIGHT Merton College.

Plinth plans

Sir: Bearing in mind that St Martin, has a string of miracles to his name, I dare say you will receive an irate letter from Dr Dawkins at the Rev Hayes' suggestion that a statue of him be raised on the vacant plinth in Trafalgar Square (letter, 21 December).

May I therefore suggest Martin's successor to the Bishopric of Tours, St Bricius, who told Martin face to face that much of what he said was sheer lunacy. DAVID WALLACE Hove, Susser

Case of the fat food critic and his handsome impostor

A MOST curious case is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a famous restaurant critic is suing a man who, he claims, is masquerading as him. The reason for this is that... well, perhaps an extract from yesterday's proceedings would be enlightening:

Counsel: Your name is ..? Plaintiff: Justin Curleigh. Counsel: Is that your real name? Plaintiff: Of course not. Counsel: Then why did you give it? Plaintiff: It is the name by which I am known. As Justin Curleigh, I have become one of the most feared and respected restaurant critics in the land. My word alone could bring a restaurant giddy success beyond its wildest dreams. Counsel: Ör, no doubt, empty it? Plaintiff: Not necessarily I have

given restaurants such had reviews that you would think the proprietors would go out and commit suicide, but they have had no effect at all. Counsel: Could you name one of these insensitive restaurants? Plaintiff: McDonald's.

Judge: Just a moment, just a moment. Excuse me for butting in. but I had no idea that McDonald's was a restaurant. I thought it was a burger joint. Plaintiff: It is, my Lord, but they

insist on calling themselves restaurants, as if real creative cooking took place on the premises. It is for that reason that all restaurant critics from time to time, almost as a joke, go and review their local Mc-Donald's. They always loathe the experience. They always say so in print. It never has any effect on McDonald's business.

Judge: I see. Carry on. Counsel: Now, Mr Curleigh, you write a regular column for several top papers and glossy magazines. Plaintiff: I do. Counsel: At the top of your column there is a photograph. Plaintiff: There is. Counsel: But it is not of you. Plaintiff: No, it is not. Counsel: Is it not extraordinary

that your column should bear someone else's picture? Plaintiff: Not at all. Counsel: What is the point? Plaintiff: To allow me to eat my meals in peace. Counsel: Explain

Plaintiff: Willingly. One of the hazards of being a top restaurant critic - and also author of Justin Curleigh's Top 100 Restaurants in Britain, of which I have some



KINGTON 'I would not be surprised

if Craig Brown went out to eat wearing a false moustache sometimes'

signed copies in court with me... Counsel: That is neither here nor Judge: On the contrary, I'd like one. Plaintiff: That's very kind of you, my Lord. Do you want it signed to anyone special? Judge: Yes. Just put "To one of the kindest judges a man could ever

hope to meet ...' Plaintiff: No problem. Counsel: To return to the case in hand, why do you have a photo of

a stranger above your column? Plaintiff: It is one of the hazards of being a top restaurant critic that one is easily recognised and given preferential treatment. It must be very hard, for instance, being Craig Brown, whose picture heads his column and whose noble domed head is instantly recognisable. I would not be surprised if he sometimes went out to eat in a false moustache - though, of course, a false moustache is always tricky if you are eating a posh meal and you are not used to it... Counsel: Perhaps a hat, then? Plaintiff: Perhaps.

Counsel: Or a wig? Plaintiff: Be that as it may, I wish to avoid that sort of awkwardness. And that is why my employers and I have agreed that my column should be headed by the face of

another. Counsel: In fact, the person in the photo is very different from you. Plaintiff: That is the whole idea. Counsel: He is young and quite good-looking...

Plaintiff: Yes... Counsel: Whereas you... Plaintiff: Watch your words, young man!

Counsel: Then how would you describe yourself? Plaintiff: Middle-aged and portly. Counsel: I think we can all agree on that. So where is the problem, Mr Curleigh? Plaintiff: The problem is that the

young man in the photograph has started posing as me! He has started booking in at top restaurants and eating very expensive meals, using my name! Counsel: That is certainly very difficult. And what is this young man's name?

Plaintiff: Justin Curleigh. Counsel: He has the same name as you? What a coincidence! Plaintiff: Not at all, He changed his name to Justin Curleigh by deed poll. Counsel: Just to get free meals? Plaintiff: So it would seem.

Counsel: Extraordinary. More of this extraordinary case tomorrow...

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Mr Mandelson's most extraordinary lapse of judgement

PETER MANDELSON is not guilty of corruption; nor has he broken any law. But his loan from the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, does represent an extraordinary lapse of judgement.

Mr Mandelson is correct in asserting that there has been no direct conflict of interest between his debts and his job as Trade Secretary. He deliberately declined to be involved in investigating Mr Robinson's business dealings.

But that is not the end of the matter. In outlining the rules for MPs, Sir Gordon Downey made it clear that any benefits "which might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions" must be declared. Ministers must not only be pure, but be seen to be. Company directors often take out loans from their companies at base rates of interest. But those in public life are necessarily subject to more rigorous scrutiny than private citizens, as Tony Blair made clear when he became Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson's presentation skills seem to have deserted him. How has the spin doctor par excellence allowed himself to become ensnared in this way? Why did he not declare the loan at the time? It would have been a matter of comment, but not of scandal. Mr Mandelson is a member of a government committed to transparency and freedom of information; a government that came in on a tide of disgust at Tory "sleaze". He should have realised how this would look if made public.

His numerous enemies will seize on this with glee. His personal style, and his crusade to root out socialism in the Labour Party, have long made him a hate figure for the left, but there has been nothing concrete for them to attack. Now they will have all the ammunition they need. There are influential Labour figures not on the left, including some ministers, with more personal reasons to dislike Mr Mandelson; any of these could have released the information now doing him such harm.

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He does seem to realise his mistake. He has admitted that it would have been better if he had revealed the loan, and has asked for the matter to be referred to the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life.

Mr Mandelson should have told his Permanent Secretary why he was declining to get involved in the investigation into Mr Robinson. He should have told the Prime Minister earlier than last Thursday. It was foolish not to. But if subsequent investigations show him to have done nothing else wrong, these are not resigning matters.

Mr Robinson seems to be getting off more lightly. But he has been even more lax than Mr Mandelson, for his reputation was already in the mire. Given his recent admisinterests, this highlights Mr Blair's mistake in not getting rid of his Paymaster General. This suggests that the judgement would have done us all a favour.



Prime Minister is not as strong as he wishes to appear. He will be damaged by that impression, just as much as by his association with Mr Mandelson, for Mr Robinson is a malign influence at the heart of the Government. He seems to dispense favours even more frequently than he fails to abide by parliamentary regulations.

For the future, the Government needs to consider better ways of handling these scandals. Mr Blair had to decide personally how to handle this lapse; his close friendship with his former spin doctor must throw that responsibility into doubt. No one believes that he would be swaved from punishing wrong-doing by personal loyalty; but the suggestion is there.

The proposal to appoint a separate and independent "sleaze-buster" for ministers, taking such decisions out of the hands of cabinet colleagues, should be resurrected. sion that he failed to announce a series of business That is the only way to lift that suspicion from the Government. If that were to be achieved, Mr Mandelson's mis-

Israel needs a leader with a sense of history

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S fall from power in Israel is hardly a surprise. For two-and-a-half years he has flirted with disaster, turning this way and that, feinting towards peace when the eyes of the world were on him, and then throwing scraps to his hard-line supporters when he thought he could get away with it. "Peace with security", he called it; but his premiership turned out to herald political stagnation and territorial insecurity.

New elections will ensure an unwelcome few months more of instability and uncertainty in Israel. Policy towards the Palestinians will be frozen until a new prime minister and cabinet are established in Tel Aviv.

At this stage, no one knows who will take power. We shall have to hold our breath while we wait to see what emerges, allowed to return through the division of its opponents.

but as long as Mr Netanyahu and his allies do not survive. the wait will be well worth it.

Netanyahu's premiership has served only to divide Israelis. Now that nation needs a leader with a historic sense of mission, strong and confident enough to compromise over the creation of a Palestinian state. The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin has been felt ever more deeply as the Oslo peace accords have fallen apart. A prime minister who can live up to the best in the Israeli tradition - a Ben-Gurion, or even a Begin - is desperately needed.

Perhaps Ehud Barak, a tough soldier and forthright speaker, just as Rabin was, will be that man. Or the popular Lieutenant-General Lipkin Shahak, who has vet to announce his candidature. A realignment of parties, with small centre groupings and dissident Likud elements uniting around a saner platform than Mr Netanyahu's, is a possibility. Only one thing is certain: the religious zealotry and self-defeating folly of this government should not be

So who will end up paying for Geoffrey Robinson's low-cost loan?

FOR AN awful lot of Peter Mandelson's would have been co-ordinating the colleagues, Christmas has come early. assault. All the more extraordinary Revelations of his embarrassment are a present for all the governing family. What a delight for the left, who loathe Mr Mandelson for his leading role in the party's reforms and unguarded pleasure in driving them to the margins of influence. What a festive treat for the hyper-active supporters of Gordon Brown, who resented Mr Mandelson's desertion of their swordsman for Tony Blair in the this would affect their dealings with leadership election and have been ating their revenge cold and heart-

ily ever since. Even the most on-message of New Labourites cannot forebear to smile at the spectacle of the man who demands the highest standards of everyone else being so thoroughly hoisted

on his own self-made mishap. Knowing him a little, I can imagine that this last humiliation will be felt by Mr Mandelson most keenly. All his professional life, he has been driven to make the Labour Party electable. He has worked tirelessly and ruthlessly to strip it of its self-mutilating instincts. Yet, in a single lapse of judgement, he has inflicted a wound to the Government's reputation. You struggling with the Bank of England's interest rate Yo-Yo to feel warm towards a senior minister who has avoided such vicissitudes through a

privately negotiated base-rate loan. Had this happened to a Tory minister, Labour would, of course, have been unleashing allegations of sleaze with the abandon of a drunk letting off party poppers – and Mr Mandelson

that a man of his political sophistication should have been unaware of the possible consequences of a large and undeclared loan from someone whose business past was, we may say, colourful, and who, like Mr Mandelson, was bent on a government job.

It must have been clear to both sides that they would be linked by the shared knowledge of the debt and that one another. Hidden links between ministers break the first rule of transparent government by creating a back-channel unknown to colleagues and the public.

As Mr Mandelson now concedes, he should, at the very latest, have declared the existence of the loan when the DTI, where he had become a minister, started investigating Mr Robinson's affairs in September. His failure to register the loan or, as far as the record goes, to share news of its existence with the Prime Minister, indicates that he felt badly about it all along - the surest sign that he was ill advised to make it.

Mr Robinson retorts that he was only seeking to help a "friend in need". Friends in need are one thing: friends in greed are quite another. A true friend would have said to Mr Mandelson, "You can't afford a house in Notting Hill. MPs' salaries are open to public scrutiny and everyone is watching you. Le tout Westminster will speculate about where you got the money from. That house, which you intend to design along starkly modernist lines to aid your repose and



MCELVOY

Old Labour was mindlessly hostile to corporate Britain. New Labour risks becoming mindlessly in hock to it

reflect your general coolness, will

not give you a moment's rest. Make do with the Islington flat for now." But the Paymaster General possesses a dangerous, almost pathological generosity. His pleasantly dithering manner hides a sharp instinct for power and patronage. Like a lot of catalysts of misfortune, he is

a one-man Santa's Grotto: source of a free holiday home for Mr Blair, trips to the South of France for his Treasury in-crowd and World Cup tickets for the young Brownites. It is quite hard to stop Geoffrey giving you things when he has a mind to. Once, when I went to lunch at his hotel apartment, he greeted me, as is his way, with a profusion of extravagant

compliments and then said, "But

your hair's all messed up. I'll get the

hairdresser here to come up and do

it for you." It took half an hour's stren- Blessed with personality, good looks uous discussion of the Public Finance and a rebarbative wit, he emerged Initiative to distract him from un-

leashing his minion on me. This eager, slightly importune manner draws people closer to him than they might come were they in possession of full and sober judgement. Mr Robinson is instinctively aware of the weaknesses and vanities of his colleagues and their heart's desires. Through his largess, he spreads a little happiness and a lot of his own influence in government. Mr Mandelson is one of Mr Blair's most trusted advisers. When it comes to deciding the future of Mr Robinson, whose continuation as Paymaster General has been under review once already since information surfaced about his offshore funds and dealings with the late Robert Maxwell, the Trade and Industry Secretary's vote carries

weight in No 10. To speak, as Mr Mandelson has done, of "insulating myself from Geof-frey Robinson's affairs", in these con-

ditions is meaningless. The real question is why the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry felt he had to live in the splendour of a latter-day Trimalchio in the first place. Petronius's satire on the Roman nouveou riches remains the proved to be sorely misjudged. best guide to the ruling élite's desire

For all his flair, Peter Mandelson is an insecure man. He also senses keenly that Labour is an insecure party, still in awe of its own regained power. Old Peter wanted to emerge from the 1997 election into the bright dawn of government as New Peter.

from the dowdy chrysalis of the Labour Party to become the favourite of west London's salons. This was not solely the product of vanity. New Labour's fondness for garbing itself in corporate splendour encouraged Mr Mandelson to believe that any interpenetration of money and politics was for the good of the party. A similar delusion has blinded Mr Blair to the way that his uncritical embrace of business is slowly but steadily damaging its reputation for plain dealing

Old Labour was mindlessly hostile to corporate Britain. New Labour risks becoming mindlessly in hock to it. I am not in the least hostile to business. But I am worried that men with deep pockets and shallow beliefs can gain undue access to and influence over government.

Mr Blair has been slow to see the implications of a pattern of behaviour that began with the acceptance of Bernie Ecclestone's donation and includes the appointment of first Lord Hollick and the Lord Sainsbury as advisers at DTI. Keeping Mr Robinson in a grace-and-favour job in the Treasury while his affairs are under investigation by another department has

New Labour cannot be both the to express its power in extravagance. People's Party and the party of Mammon. Forging a corporate Britain plc was not one of the five pledges. Mr Mandelson's deal with Geoffrey Robinson may turn out to be the most expensive low-interest loan ever negotiated. It will be repaid in full by the Government in the year to come.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I would hate the public to think that all MPs insist on having half a million pound houses." Diane Abbott Labour MP

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Moral indignation is in most cases 2 per cent moral. 48 per cent indignation and 50 per cent envy." Vittorio De Sica, Italian film director

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THE WHOLE world condemned BOMBING IRAQ was a misthis aggression on Iraq which economic and medical facilities. the criminal policy pursued is the only superpower in the world, run under the so-called "new order"? Syria Times

take. To do so with so little conwas carried out to fulfil politi-sultation with other countries cal objectives and personal was a disaster; to do so without ends. Hundreds of Iraqi victims fresh authorisation from UNfell to satisfy Clinton's needs. SCOM was even worse. Britain He killed many civilians and must recover its balance, and destroyed many educational, start to question what is being done. If Blair's government is It is only part of the evidence so entranced by Clinton that it cannot ask the US Administration directly, then the British opposition should start to ask questions of Blair. Gulf Times, UAE

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD The world press reviews the legacy of the British and US air strikes against Iraq

THE ARAB world needs to get the country. The Lower House its act together by adopting a of Parliament in Jordan has clear and coherent stance on the Iraqi situation and on how to deal with it in the aftermath and the Vatican on Iraq, and

taken due notice of the bold declarations of Moscow, Beijing of last week's bombardments of lamented, rightly so. Arab By far the greatest loss is that

inaction. This is as good an the air-strikes may have occasion as any for the major Arab capitals to coordinate their efforts with Paris, Moscow and Beijing in order to bring back sanity and compassion to the conflict. Jordan Times

THE STRIKES have done irreversible damage to the United Nation security council's effective mechanism to check Saddam Hussein's evil designs.

Hussein regime, Surely, a longterm psychological warfare campaign aimed at turning Iraqis against their ruthless dictator may be the most farsighted option in terms of strategies to replace the present military action Washington so foolishly embarked

prompted a vast number of

people in the Arab world to

sympathise with the Saddam

B

PANDORA

BEWARE THE revenge of the Teletubbies this Christmas. A hospital in New York is warning that the Teletubbies have been indirectly responsible for toddlers being injured, and even killed, by their TV sets. Doctors at the Jacobi Medical Center warn that the British-made TV programme encourages kids to hug the TV. "Unfortunately, the children are toppling TVs down on themselves, causing head trauma and other crushing injuries," Dr Ellea Crain, director of emergency paediatric services, told the New York Post. There have been 73 cases of injury in the US, with two deaths in the Broux area of New York alone. Ominously, on Christmas Day BBC2 will feature Big Hug: The Story of the Teletubbies.

JOHN EDMONDS. leader of the GMB, one of Britain's biggest unions, and the man who famously denounced boardroom fat cats as 'greedy bastards", is imself faced with a spot of industrial unrest. Staff in his press office are to hold a vote on strike action unless Mr Edmonds rescinds his decision to dismiss Tom Condon, the union's spin doctor. Condon has been accused of all manner of misdeeds, including leaking stories to the newspapers about the fact that the union has mislaid £6m. A farther irony is that Condon is the former industrial editor of *The Sun*, where he was the scourge of industrial militants.

THE ENGLISH playwright David Hare has just been given permission - from the notoriously finicky US Actors Equity Association - to make his Broadway stage debut as an actor. He will star in Via Dolorosa, his personal memoir about Israel. The play recently made its London debut at the Royal Court, where Hare, who is married to the fashion designer Nicole Farhi, began his dramatic career in the literary department some 30 years ago.



opened in New York last April and another, Amy's View, is scheduled to debut in the city next spring. Both The Blue Room and The Judas Kiss featured stage nudity, most notably Nicole Kidman's barebottomed romp in The Blue Room. Apparently there is no plan for Hare to disrobe during his dramatic account of The Holy Land.

READERS WILL surely

recall Pandora's earnest

suggestion during the World Cup last June that the FA introduce a way to show how much injury time was left in a match. Despite the wide use of this system in Europe and elsewhere, our own Premier League told Pandora at the time that there was no popular support for the measure. However, the Football Supporters Association had different ideas and urged the Premier League to introduce injury time display boards. The boards are now a fixture at all Premier League matches and a League spokesman told Pandora: "The move came off the back of the World Cup." When pressed, he admitted that they were considered "successful". Of course, Pandora would be the last person to say, "I told you so".

(pictured), the cinema's favourite English rose. appears as a dying woman in a wheelchair, without makeup or elaborate hair styling, in her next film. The Theory of Flight. "I relished the idea, actually," she told USA Today. "For one, I didn't have people primping me all the time. And the reality is that I've often been cast for what I look like, and it was a relief not to be cast for that." However. Pandora suspects that Kenneth Branagh, who plays the love interest in the film, was cast partially because he plays that role in real life. although Helena is keen to disparage such an idea. Helena's father was disabled by a serious stroke two decades ago and she used

HELENA BONHAM-CARTER

her experiences of life at nome, as well as her dad's wheelchair, to prepare for a role that is said to be among her very finest work.

PANDORA HEARS a apocryphal) tale of a car bumper sticker displayed vehicle, observed last week near the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall:

"Only two bombing days left to Ramadan."

Why do we buy books for Christmas?

"UNCLE PHILIP," my niece – blond curis, blue eyes, the works - was saying to me the other day. What would you like for Christmas?"

"God, I don't know," I said. "Anything you like, sweetheart."

Would you like a book?" she said. "Anything you like," I said, wondering whether what I really needed was another book.

"What would you like?" she said. What sort of book?"

"Well," I said. "A really good Persian dictionary would be nice. Or a copy of one of Robert Liddell's novels, one of the early ones. Or Kaye's history of the first Afghan war, not the first edition, the third one, the 1857 edition with all the footnotes. Or the first volume of the new catalogue raisonné of Paul Klee. Or Teddy Sheringham's autobiography. Or a reliable edition of Pseudodoxia Epidemica. Or a copy of Greenmantle to replace the one I left on the train this morning. Or...

It was too late; she was off in a corner, as Dorothy Parker puts it, necking with Morpheus, and my chance to get what I really wanted for Christmas was reduced to nil.

Why do people buy books for



HENSHER

Relatives produce works of the sheerest horror depressing revelations of their perception of you

Christmas? Surely everyone knows that they're the most personal things in the world, things that you would hardly trust your nearest and dearest to come up with. Even given the strictest possible instructions, people are always apt to

produce the wrong thing. After drilling a member of your family for weeks, you open the package on Christmas Day, and they

have somehow contrived to give you, instead of a copy of Greenmantle, one of Mr Standfast. And, in any case, it hardly seems within the spirit of Christmas to tell your nearest and dearest exactly what you want and how much they should pay for it.

But without strict instructions, friends, lovers and relations are apt to produce offerings of the sheerest horror - faintly depressing revelations, not of their character exactly, but of their perception of yours.

For some reason, people were always giving me comic novels when I was a boy, and it was always a great struggle not to explain to the well intentioned gift-giver that I had no sense of humour, and would really prefer not to be put under an obligation to read a novel set on a university campus, in which the purchasing of condoms played any part at all, or in which the ordinary English words for the genitalia were misheard to comically catastrophic effect, even if The Daily Telegraph reviewer recommended that the novel in question should not be read in a public place.

You sit down on Christmas after-

noon and, chocolate-filled and halfnauseous, gazing at Nigel Williams's best efforts, succumb to the familiar sense that la vie est triste, helas! Et j'ai lu tous les livres. And yet a quarter of all books sold

in this country are sold in the runup to Christmas. These are books bought, not for

yourself, or out of curiosity, but mostly in the vague sense that "this will do, won't it?" Gift books, in short; books without content, Country Diaries of an Edwardian Lady, and, as Italo Calvino put it: "Books you needn't read, books made for purposes other than reading, books read even before you open them since they belong to the category of books read before being written." Cookbooks; travel books; books of television series; scripts - Γm not making this up - of situation comedies; and, if you feel like a novel, it is most likely to be a sequel to a sequel of a sequel.

Nobody, except the most raving eccentric, would give Dead Souls or La Vie: Mode d'Emploi as a Christmas present, so the genre of Christmas books is invented. The most long-lived of these is the amazing phenomenon of Francis Gay. Most people seem never to have heard of Francis Gay, but every year the books that appear under his name I expect it is more or less a fictitious trademark of the publisher's invention - make it into the bestseller charts.

There is a little poem, or a halfcomic, half-moralising anecdote for every day of the year, uplifting photographs of lambs and daffodils, there is a vaguely Scottish flavour to the whole enterprise. I promise you, it is enough to make you puke. But they sell like billy-oh, and have been doing for decades, in spite of the fact that you have never seenone in anybody's house. Are they kept, like pornography, in drawers? Or perhaps they constitute the Platonic ideal of the Christmas book; perhaps they are given, a thank-you letter is sent, and the Friendship Bock of Francis Gay 1999 dispatched smartly into the

waste-paper bin. All in all, I must say, I would rather have some nice socks, though I haven't entirely given up on the prospect of the really good Persian dictionary.

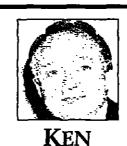
Perfect for the White House, a disaster for the Middle East

BRITAIN'S ILL JUDGED and lethal support for Bill Clinton's reckless gamble against Iraq has left us isolated from our European partners and once again an object of contempt and derision throughout the rest of the world. In private conversation it is hard to find any MP who does not believe that the real purpose of the bombing of Iraq was to buy Clinton time and support in his struggle against impeachment. The fact that there is no UN resolution authorising these attacks would, in a world based on justice, leave Bill Clinton exposed to prosecution for war Once again the unedifying spec-

tacle of Britain running along behind America, yapping like a demented poodle, has shown the complete absence of any long-term strategic thinking in the Foreign Office about Britain's position in the world. Britain's willingness to go along with Clinton's White House, whether it is by supporting US-inspired sanctions against Libya, Iran and Pakistan, or by bombing Sudan and Afghanistan, leaves us open to the accusation from the Muslim world that we support an anti-Islam policy.

The coincidence of Clinton's military escapades with the fall of the Israeli government has once again served to highlight Anglo-American hypocrisy towards the Middle East. Innocent Iraqi civilians are bombed to death because Saddam has weapons of mass destruction, whereas Israel, which has amassed 200 nuclear weapons, in contravention of all international law, remains the largest beneficiary of American support.

Indeed, for those who have studied the history of the Middle East, there are few more disgraceful episodes than the complicity of President Johnson's White House in turning a blind eye to the early



LIVINGSTONE

It is quite obvious that Benjamin Netanyahu is never going to provide courageous leadership

stages of Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

raining down on them at regular intervals because they are unfortunate enough to live under a dictator, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been allowed to rat with impunity on one provision after another of the Oslo agreement. He has even started to betray the agreement he personally reached with Yasser Arafat at the Wye peace conference earlier this year. American politicians at all levels continue to prop up this ghastly Israeli government out of fear of the "pro-Israel" lobby on Capitol Hill.

For those of us who hope to see a permanent and lasting peace that allows both Jews and Arabs to look forward to dying in their beds of old age, rather than being blown apart by suicide bombers or the Israeli air force, we have to recognise that what Israel needs is blunt and honest advice rather than double standards and knee-jerk support for the rabid

ultra-nationalism of the Likud party.

handshake of Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn, I thought that Arafat had most probably signed his own death warrant. Never in my wildest nightmare did it occur to me that it was Yitzhak Rabin who would pay with his life because he was prepared to argue for peace. Although it is easy to dismiss Rabin's assassin as just one of a small handful of murderous fanatics, Netanyahu cannot escape sharing the blame for what happened. The violence of Netanyahu's language in denouncing the Oslo accords as treachery and betrayal helped create the climate of opinion in which the unbalanced mind of the assassin finds reassurance that his act of murder is justified.

Those of us who have travelled through Israel and have been cantivated by the charm and humanity found it difficult to come to terms with the growing power and influence of the small, fanatical minority who seem increasingly to dominate Israeli politics. The system of pure proportional representation Israeli elections allows a party that is incapable of getting more than 1 per cent of the vote, nevertheless to hold the balance of power.

The fact that Israel is split almost equally between hawks and doves has handed power to the small religious parties, which have then skilfully exploited their position to impose a theocratic state on the reluctant mass of liberal and reformminded Israelis.

The most bizarre example of the power of the ultra-orthodox has been their attempt, by relocating populations, to become an absolute majority inside the city of Jerusalem. As their fundamentalist hold has tightened, liberal and reform-minded citizens have left the When I watched the historic city to move to more tolerant areas.



Netanyahu (right) has broken accords with impunity Reuters :

cumstances is a leader with the This is the way forward for Arab and While the Iraqi people find death of so many ordinary Israelis have courage of Rabin - someone prepared to risk their own political career and perhaps even their life by standing up to the fundamentalists and reaching out beyond them to assemble a clear majority for a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. That settlement must be based on the rapid creation of full Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank and Gaza, so that the leadership can isolate those who will continue to exploit the genuine political grievances of the Palestinians until a final peace settlement gives both Arab and Jew a stake in build-

ing a peaceful region. The key to long-term peace lies in crude old economics. Fifty years ago no one would have believed it possible that France and Germany, having fought three wars in under a century, could achieve their present status. What the founders of the new Europe recognised was that it was possible to bind the French and German economies. They gave the citizens of both countries a personal

What is required in these cir- stake in peaceful co-development. Israeli alike. It is not enough merely to create with

some Palestinian self-governing enclave. The best guarantee of peace will be when just a fraction of the wealth that Israel spends on its military arm is diverted towards a major programme of economic reconstruction throughout the area.

Then it would be possible to find per manent settlements and employ-14 ment for the hundreds and thousands of Palestinians who still rot in refugee camps and provide Hamas with their most fertilerecruiting-ground.

It is quite obvious that Benjamin Netanyahu is never going to provide such courageous leadership. His American style is all too clear in the way he operates politically. Shortterm, manipulative, divisive, everything subordinated to securing his own position - he would be a natural in the White House. Unfortunately, in the Middle East these qualities are a recipe for the death and destruction of Arab and Jew alike.

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No literary apartheid in Bosnia COMPARED TO Serbian tunately, both the dearth and or Hungarian or Greek poetry, surprisingly little Bosnian poetry has been translated into English. What has is almost universally

It is abundantly clear why this was, and is, so. There appears to be a view widespread in the former Yugoslavia that non-native speakers can easily handle journalistic or literary translation into English. But this reflects a serious misconception. It is exceptionally rare to find a translator

who can produce work of real

literary or even technical qual-

weak, both technically and

ity in a language that is not his or her own. After all, it is hard enough to produce work of literary quality even in one's native language. Always a bad policy in prose, translation by nonnative speakers in the matter of poetry is wholly misguided since it is nearly always tonedeaf to sophisticated registers of usage, style, atmosphere

and meaning. Translation is an important window on to a country. It shapes the understanding and image of that country. Unfor-

weakness of previous translations of Bosnian literature can only tend to confirm the worst Western stereotypes - that it is some sort of Balkanized Ruritania where three tribes with unpronounceable names do unspeakable things; that it lacks a serious unified culture within ancient borders as old as those of Western nations; that it might as well be partitioned de facto between the cul-

In contrast, my anthology rows against those stereotypes; since English is the global lingua franca, it opens a large window on the rich and sophisticated poetic tradition of a long-standing people. The outstanding quality of the translations implicitly demands that Bosnian poetry be taken as seriously as the poetry of any other European nation.

tures of its better-known

Now I will step briefly into the lion's den. A debate is going on in Bosnia as to whether, basically, there should be one or three Bosnian literatures this latter option based, presumably on the linguistic differences between the Bosniak Serbian and Croatian versions



CHRIS AGEE

Delivered by the author at the launch of his anthology, 'Scar on the Stone: Contemporary Poetry from Bosnia'

of the language, rather than a crude ethno-religious classification. I am speaking, of course, of a debate within liberated Bosnia.

It is surely understandable that what was once formally called "Serbo-Croat" should be renamed more naturally as Bosnian, Croatian or Serbian. It is also right that every effort should be made within free Bosnia to ensure the equality and systemisation of each of

these dialects. But when these justified linguistic considerations begin to intrude into literature. I think we are into dangerous territory. We are into the same obsession with labels that first descended to ethnic-cleansing and then led to the catastrophic Western map-making of successive

peace negotiations.

Any critical move towards the idea of three literatures is deeply retrograde. It would mark a partition on ethno-religious grounds. Is that what people in free Bosnia really want after the years of genocide and suffering - to finish the work of the ethnic separatists, to institute a literary apartheid?

There is an alternative that is also opportunity. It involves what might be called a civic state as opposed to an ethnic nationalism. All citizens are equal, both politically and culturally. Just as Irish culture is simply what happens culturally on the island of Ireland including, of course, the contributions of outsiders - Bosnian culture is simply what happens culturally within the historic boundaries of Bosnia. Actually, isn't there some-

nation of minorities. As has often been remarked, this is why it is like a polyphony. And a polyphony ceases to be itself if one of the strands is left out, or if the strands are unravelled into something else. As I understood it, the defence of Bosnia was about the defence

of polyphony; as I see it, that polyphony in its literary form is best defended by a single

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Britain's debt to immigrants



HAMISH MCRAE

Instead of asking whether migrants do well out of Britain, ask if Britain does well out of them

IT WAS a request that could not be ignored. Following David Aaronovitch's column on the positive contribution of immigrants to British society, a reader wrote asking me to look at the contribution from an economic point of view. I'm grateful for the chance, because it s a fascinating tale.

Or rather, three tales - for there are at least three different ways of looking at the economic contribution of immigrants. You can look at the statistics, and see to what extent immigrant groups seem to prosper (or otherwise) relative to the locals. You can look at the disproportionate contribution of immigrant stars - the people who have not just prospered, but have in fact changed the country in some dramatic way. And you can look at the dynamic contribution of migration in shaping economies, and in particular why moving people around may be becoming a more important engine of economic growth.

If you ask the question "how well do immigrants do?", the question that immediately follows is, "which immigrants?", for the picture is very mixed. The best work on this subject probably comes from the Policy Studies Institute, which has produced a series of reports on ethnic minorities in Britain, while the Employment Policy Institute also does helpful research.

So we know quite a lot about how various immigrant groups prosper. Some clearly do very well. Among the "winners" are African and Caribbean women, who earn substantially more than white women; African-Asian and Chinese men also have a higher chance than vhites of earning more than £500 a week, and they are less likely to be out of work.

Of course, not all immigrants are from non-white ethnic groups. Other recent figures show that Irish people in Britain now do well, while Americans and immigrants from the EU also seem to be prospering. Incidentally, two of the Law Lords who gave that controversial verdict on General Pinochet were immigrants from South Africa.

By contrast, some immigrant groups find it hard to make economic beadway here. There is very



Tony Blair joins the 25th anniversary celebrations of Gujarat Samancher, Europe's best-selling Gujarati newspaper - another Asian success story in Britain Edward Sykes

high unemployment among people from Pakistan and Bangladesh, and their households are among the poorest in the country. Caribbean men tend to do badly. There is also evidence of a "glass ceiling" - of well qualified people from immigrant communities not getting as good jobs as their qualifications would suggest they should. On the other hand, the NHS would be in a dreadful mess without the services of African and Caribbean women.

If you turn the question on its head and, instead of asking whether immigrants do well out of Britain. ask whether Britain does well out of them, I suppose the answer would be equally mixed. The country clearly benefits enormously from the contribution of some communities and does not seem to benefit much from that of others. Looking ahead. I suspect that the

performance of immigrant communities will tend to improve rather than deteriorate, for several reasons. For a start, any ethnic disadvantage from being seen as "different" will fade away. This is partly because mixed relationships are booming: half of the Caribbean men and one-third of Caribbean women have white partners. But it is also because some of the professions in which immigrants have been particularly successful - such

as entertainment and sport - are strong growth industries.

In the US, it used to be said that blacks could make it to the top only in music and sport, as though success there were somehow not as valuable or worthwhile as success in business or the law. In fact, those are two terrific professions to be good at; a few stars have a disproportionate impact on the economy.

That leads to the second area in which immigrants make a special contribution: the stars. Immigrant stars burst out in just about every walk of life. If you include secondgeneration immigrants as well as first, political stars would include Sir Leon Brittan, Michael Portillo and Michael Howard on the right, and Paul Boateng, Keith Vaz, Bernie Grant and Diane Abbott on the left. There is a vast range of success stories in the business community, too - Lord Paul, who runs the industrial group Caparo, and Lord Hamlyn, the publisher, were among the prominent contributors to

Labour at the last election. Lakshmi Mittal, another big contributor, is ranked as Britain's third-richest person and richest Asian, a little ahead of the Hinduja brothers, who are supporting the spirit section of the Millennium Dome - and have been substantial supporters of the Tories.

I haven't seen any comparable statistics, but I would suspect that immigrant businesspeople play a larger role in the economy here than they do in France or Germany. though naturally not in the US. It is self-evidently possible for immigrant business people to "make it" in Britain - so many have.

But the more interesting question is whether any have really changed the nature of our economy. I can think of three post-war examples. One is Siegmund Warburg. who came from Germany in the Thirties and founded the merchant bank SG Warburg. He virtually invented the contested take-over. and played a crucial role in recovering the City's international business in the Fifties and Sixties.

A second example is the Grade family, which came from the Ukraine in the early years of this century. As a family, they were immensely successful in showbiz, with Lew and Leslie Grade and Bernard Delfont all making great successes of their lives. But Lew stood out as the most important single person in developing commercial TV in Britain. Yes, the industry would have grown, but I don't think it would have achieved its popularity so quickly without his leadership at ATV - or had the impact on the

stodgy BBC that it did.

My third example would be the Saatchi brothers, whose family came from Baghdad to revolutionise our advertising industry. Two of the world's largest ad groups are now British, the original Saatchi empire (which ejected the brothers, who now run a new agency and WPP, run by a former Saatchi executive

The fact that Britain punches above its weight in financial services, the entertainment industries and advertising all has something to do with immigrants. Looking ahead, I'm fairly sure

that migration will become more important, not less. It is not just that a society open to immigrants tends to attract good brains. Only this week a report by the Government suggested that teeenagers from to be in full-time education at 18 than their white counterparts.

That human capital - as opposed to financial capital, industrial plant, natural resources and so on has become the most important single determinant of economic success. Finance? The world markets are awash with money seeking a good home. Manufacturing capability? Foreign direct investment transfers the knowledge of how to make things within a matter of weeks. Resources? They seem to be

CLARE BROWN

RIGHT

OF REPLY

The head of Child, a national infertility support network, responds to Jeremy Laurance's article on infertility treatment

IN HIS article yesterday, Jeremy Laurance implies that the Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) is not closely regulated or monitored. He also suggests that ICSI is offered in a haphazard way. without concern for children born following the treatment. and that the patient's over-whelming desire for a family outweighs concerns about the safety of the treatment. This is not the case.

Infertility treatment is the most regulated field of medicine in the UK. Any clinic offering treatment, storing gametes or embryos, or carrying out human embryo research, is required by law to be licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) - the only statutory body of its kind in the whole world.

I do share some of Mr Laurance's concerns regarding the long-term effects of some forms of infertility treatment. However, I am reassured by the fact that we do have a regulatory body to safeguard patients in the field of licensed nfertility treatments.

It is not true that "warnings of potential genetic consequences have zero impact", either on the patients or the clinics. Mr Laurance goes on to state: "The desperate desire for a child guarantees (the issues] will be ignored." The emotional impact of infertility is enormous. However, for those suffering from infertility to be branded as incapable of making decisions regarding their treatment because they are so desperate that all common sense goes out of the window, is downright offensive.

Finally, the article claims that the success rates for ICSI are now 40 per cent higher than for IVF. This statement is incorrect. The latest HFEA annual report states that the average live birth rate for IVF is 16.7 per cent, and for ICSI is 21.6 per cent.

Obviously, infertility treatment such as ICSI must be regulated, and the long-term follow-up of children born as a result is vital. But please, do not make it appear that those suffering from infertility or those working in the field do not care. We do.

Lies and loves of an ugly duckling

FICTION WRITTEN by children's writers often stretches into accounts of their lives as well. AA Milne and Enid Blyton were both far more remote as parats than could ever be guessed from their writing, and WE Johns, creator of that are pilot Biggles, later developed a fear of flying. Hans Christian Andersen is another

whose public image was at odds with private reality. A rich man for the last half of his life, he was nevertheless sent money by young American admirers appalled at the impression of poverty he continued to give through his habitual meanness and complaining. Nor was he



WEDNESDAY BOOK

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN: THE FAN DANCER BY ALISON PRINCE, ALLYSON & BUSBY, £19.99

was cracked up to be. His statue, funded by public subscription, was originally to show Andersen reading to a crowd of eager young admirers. He angrily vetoed the idea: he would "never read aloud if anyone was sitting behind me or lean-

quite the unfailing friend of children he ing up towards me, and even less so if I had children sitting on my lap or my back, or a young Copenhagen boy leaning between my legs". Alison Prince, in this well researched

> sensitivity about his rumoured homosexuality. She subtitles her study "The Fan Dancer", seeing him as someone who liked to show off while also keeping his most closely guarded secrets to himself. But although he was always deeply in love with his best friend, Edvard Collin, there is no indication of any physical relationship. Confused himself, and confusing to

and readable biography, believes that the particular objection to the young Copen-

hagen boy derived from Andersen's

others, Andersen seems to have spent his sexually active years masturbating to the extent of doing himself an injury so proving that those 19th-century medical blasts about the dangers of unrestrained self-abuse occasionally had a point. There were also visits to brothels, where the exceptionally tall, long-nosed and odd-looking author passed the time merely talking to the

young women he met.

Prince believes that some of this ambiguity was the result of sexual abuse in childhood. There is no hard evidence for this, or for her more sustained claim that Andersen was an illegitimate son of the Danish Crown Prince, put out to foster parents as a baby (very much as in a fairy tale). This is not a new theory, but it here offers more distraction than illumination. It is just as convincing to explain Andersen's genius, in terms of his childhood, as an unusual. effeminate, possibly dyslexic, almost autistic child, loved to bits by his par-

ents and with the knowledge that he had something great to offer. His struggle for recognition contin-

ued through his life, turning him into an inveterate snob on his travels from one great house to another in search of the approval he so needed. The sense of loneliness, depression and cruelty in his tales all had echoes in his childhood.

His mad grandfather, decked in green like Ophelia, was the butt of the village boys. Terrible schooldays, where Andersen was the chief target of a sadistic teacher, were alleviated only by incongruous treats, such as a class visit to a public execution in 1825. There, he saw three young adults decapitated. The next moment, some superstitious parents hustled "their half-paralysed son, the victim of a stroke, up to the scaffold and forced him to drink a bowlful of blood that ran from their bodies".

At a time when other collections of fairy tales extolled the virtues of selfreliance and ingenuity exemplified by the successful hero or less often, heroine. Andersen sounded a different note. He spoke of blighted hopes, loss and melancholy. His great story, "The Ugly Duckling", is interpreted by Prince as in allegory about a homosexual who finds nothing in common with surrounding male society. It could also be read as a story about anyone who does not fit in, for whatever reason. Most children know about this experience at some stage. Andersen put young readers in touch with their despair.

This message was usually balanced by passages of great good humour, and there are other scenes in his stories where a general yearning for perfection finds - for a short time - its ultimate realisation. Even so, Andersen was far more a Buster Keaton than the Danny Kaye who appears in the dreadful film about him. Yet it is still difficult not to feel for this lachrymose, self-pitying but ultimately decent man, trapped in a ridiculous body while producing the best fairy tales ever written by one person.

'The greatest work of fiction since vows of fidelity were included in the French marriage service Edmund Blackadder

getting ever cheaper in real terms.

What matters is people. Any

country that can become a magnet

for talented people will be assured

But who are these talented

people? What are the talents of the

future? In some areas it is easy to

see. The City has become a magnet

for talent, for if you want to make a

pot of money in international finance

it is arguably the best place in the

world to do so. In the entertainment

industries. Britain is a magnet for

talent, and sport - well that has be-

come a global business, and we do

seem to be able to attract foreign tal-

hard to know what talent really is.

Who could have predicted that writ-

ing software for video games would

be a great growth industry in

Britain? On paper an economically

literate immigration policy should

seek to attract the highest skilled,

and that is certainly what some

countries seek to do. But you also need pirates - people who don't have the formal qualifications, but have

an overriding desire to make a bet-

ter life for themselves and their fam-

ilies. I am not suggesting that we

should welcome every container-

load of refugees who sneak in at

Dover. But just a few may become

the Lew Grades of the next century.

But in other areas it is very

ent to come and work here.

of economic success.



And at my council flat there was a hook Behind the door and a jabbering set That snowed, drizzled, then cleared after a thump.

WEDNESDAY POEM

FROM 'BILL OF RIGHTS'

Brixton market was rough but this is rougher.

I could find saltfish and eddoes near the reggae

Shop that shook my fillings and made my ears ring.

A 37 bus always came eventually -

Often after a long wait - in twos and threes.

Chump chump went the piranhas On the children who jumped Unthinkingly into the river During a spell without supervision Oh red river

Howls under water Blood signalling miles downstream For more, more piranhas to come feast

Our poems until 8 January come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. 'Bill of Rights', Fred D'Aguiar's narrative poem about the 1978 Jonestown massacre.is published by Chatto (£7.99)

The Rev Lord Soper

DONALD SOPER was the last of those nonconformist princes of the pulpit whose eminence derived not from any ecclesiastical position or title but from force of personality and prophetic authority. For decades, he was one of the best-known churchmen in Britain, firing off pithy comments on any topical issue the press cared to raise with him, a broadcaster's dream long before the term "soundbite" was coined.

Methodism, socialism and pacifism were the three pillars of Soper's thought and life, and he lived to see each in danger. Methodism in numerical decline; socialism not to be spoken of amongst New Labour, and pacifism still a rejected dimension of the Gospel. He died in the aftermath of the bombing of Iraq, his grief tinged with bitterness that it should be a Labour government which had unleashed the dogs of war. Soper was well-blessed by nature

- outstandingly handsome even in old age, elegant in dress and mancharming. In appearance, he was more Olivier than Isaiah. It was his speech that gave a clue to the power of his mind; his fluency was phenomenal. His sentences were perfectly balanced, his vocabulary prodigious but never flowery or cluttered, and his resonant, perfectly modulated voice had both beauty and power. He could make a routine sentence sound like the Gettysburg Address, and until a few weeks before his death, his voice effortlessly reached the farthest fringes of the crowds who came to hear him at Tower Hill and at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.

He embodied all the great traditions of Methodism; no faction or pressure group within it could claim him as its own. He was an unapologetic evangelical whose Gospel could be summarised as a faith in Jesus which leads by way of personal conversion to political radicalism. But he had no time for any evangelism based on the uncritical use of the Bible. He found all forms of fundamentalism abhorrent because he believed in loving God with the whole of his mind. It was, he affirmed, the Christian's duty to bring not just fervour but also hard thinking to bear on the life of our time.

He also inherited from Hugh Price Hughes, the great turn-of-thecentury Methodist preacher and social reformer, a fierce concern for the poor and down-trodden, which where popular preaching was combined with social outreach through centres for the homeless, unmarried mothers and alcoholics. Then, later in his ministry, he developed a high Wesleyan sacramentalism which became the linchpin of his faith. He exchanged his smart grey suit and red tie for a simple black cassock and made the regular celebration of Holy Communion his chief duty.

Most typically, he followed John Wesley into the open air and became one of the great Christian apologists of our time. Just as Wesley, the founder of Methodism, finding pulpits barred to him, took to the market place, the crossroads and the street corner, so Donald Soper, finding the pulpit restricting, went to Tower Hill and Speakers' Corner where the public gathered to argue and interrogate. What G.K. Chesterton did for the faith in print, and C.S. Lewis on the radio, Soper achieved

by soapbox oratory.

Soper practised what he called

the "fellowship of controversy", delighting to argue the Christian case against all comers. His way with heckiers became the stuff of legend. He never stooped to score cheap points, but demolished their arguments with amiable wit and often made them his friends. It was one of the sadnesses of his later years that the traditional Speakers' Corner hecklers had given place to humourless fundamentalists who hurled Biblical texts like missiles at him and hooligans trying to break up his meetings.

Soper's critics claimed that he made the classical liberal error of believing that the Kingdom of God could be dissolved without remainder into a socialist state with a pacifist foreign policy; that his theology was superficial. But the openair speaker must of necessity oversimplify complex ideas or risk losing the crowd. Soper believed that any doctrine which is so abstruse that it cannot be used in public discourse is as near irrelevant as makes ner, quick-witted and genuinely no odds. Theology's main task is to make it easier for the Gospel to be heard, anything else it does is just academic business. His old university, Cambridge, obviously had no complaint with his swashbuckling way of treating theology, for in 1988 they made him an honorary Doctor

Soper was born in 1903, precise-

What G. K. Chesterton did for the faith in print, and C. S. Lewis on the radio, Soper achieved by soapbox oratory. His way with hecklers became the stuff of legend

ly two centuries after Methodism's founder and he outlived Wesley by half a dozen years. He shared not only longevity with John Wesley but also nation to keep going to the very end. contemptuously shrugging off age and infirmity. As with Wesley, there was no left-over life unspent when he died; God had had all there was of him. He grew up in a comfortable

home in Streatham, south-east London, his mother a headmistress and suffragette, his father a marine claims adjuster, a classical nonconformist, puritan in his principles, Liberal in politics and a preacher with a gift for open-air speaking. At Aske's School, Hatcham, Soper's love for music was nurtured and he developed a virtuosity with the tin whistle which later was to entertain generations of children. He was an all-round sportsman, excelling at soccer, cricket, swimming and, more surprising in an incipient pacifist, boxing. It was at school too, that he first put into words his desire to be a Methodist minister.

He read History at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and then, in 1924, he was one of the first generation of graduate candidates for the Methodist ministry to be selected for Wesley House, a newly built theological college in Jesus Lane. He left with a First, a membership card for the Labour Party in his pocket and a reputation for being independent-minded to the point of awkwardness.

He spent 10 years in various churches around London, during which time he began his open-air ministry and rapidly became one of the best-known ministers in Methodism, in increasing demand as a preacher, though he often had the pews buzzing with disapproval. His sceptical views on doctrines such as the Virgin Birth, his fierce attacks on capitalism and the arms trade all

caused outrage.

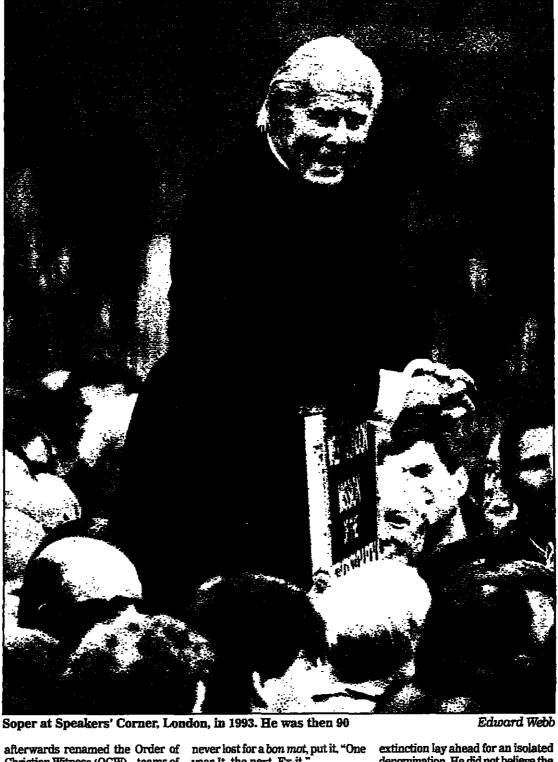
Decades before they became fashionable causes, he argued for the ordination of women, championed homosexual rights and attacked cruelty to animals. He was one of the earliest religious broadcasters, heard on air regularly from 1935 until the outbreak of the Second World War, when he was banned because of his pacifist views.

In 1929 he married Marie Dean, a beautiful and spirited lady who was no mere appendage to her husband: she made it clear from the outset that she had no intention of being an unpaid curate. She held the family together during his long absences, kept his feet firmly on the ground and delighted him by her wit and independence – she did not share his almost fanatical teetotalism and had doubts about his pacifism. Soper's family life was a matter for animated discussion in theological college circles in the 1950s. He and Marie had four stunning daughters, and Soper would acknowledge with a twinkle that his following amongst unmarried ministerial students was not entirely explained by his great gifts of leadership.

He was, in 1936, appointed Super-intendent of the West London Mission, based at the Kingsway Hall, at that time one of the great London pulpits. His friend and fellow Methodist preacher Leslie Weatherhead was already packing in the crowds at the City Temple and when Edwin Sangster arrived at the Central Hall, Westminster, a famous Methodist triumvirate was in place - identified by irreverent theological students as: Sangster loves God. Weatherhead loves the people and Soper loves an argument.

porter of the Peace Pledge Union at the urging of the charismatic Dick Sheppard, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, whom he came to venerate. A galaxy of prominent pacifists rallied to a cause lent urgency by the sound of distant gunfire in Europe - Bertrand Russell, Vera Brittain, George Lansbury, Aldous Huxley, Charles Raven, Siegfried Sassoon and George MacLeod.

Soper was elected Vice-Chairman of the union and argued the case for pacifism right up to and during the Second World War. It took a special kind of courage to get up at Speakers' Corner during the Blitz and tell his audience they had a Christian duty to love the enemies who were laying waste to British cities every night. He and his family lived in a shelter under the Kingsway Hall and ran a rest and feeding centre for those bombed out. During the darkest days of war, Soper launched one of the initiatives of which he was



Christian Witness (OCW) - teams of year It, the next, Ex-it." young people who under his leada message which combined evangelism with social concern. It was through the OCW that a number of young Christians who were later to become outstanding leaders of the Church got their early training.

Throughout his ministry, Soper attracted countless disciples, preeminent amongst whom was Harry Morton, later President of the Methodist Conference and General Secretary of the British Council of Churches. If anyone was likely to inherit Soper's mantle it was Harry Morton, who in his youth was so influenced by Soper that he spoke and dressed like him. He gradually found his own distinctive voice as a prophetic figure on the religious landscape, only to be felled by a series of strokes at the height of his powers.

In 1953 Soper was elected President of the Methodist Conference. a minister who for one year becomes the chief officer of the Methodist Church before being reduced smartproudest, the Kingsway Preachers. ly to the ranks again - as Soper,

The President is expected to be

ership conducted missions in towns a focus of unity and encourage-Soper exploited his temporary preeminence to attract press coverage for views which were anything but unifying. When a reporter, probing his pacifist convictions in the light of the Cold War, asked him what he would do if the Russians invaded Britain, he replied, "Welcome them with a cup of tea."

He caused uproar and a certain degree of schizophrenia amongst Methodists when he criticised the Royal Family for their addiction to horse racing. They were, after all, loyal subjects of the Queen but also traditionally opposed to all forms of betting, which, said Soper, "involved collecting money on a socialist basis and distributing it on a capital basis", plainly the wrong way round.

But the comment of their President which upset Methodists most was made in the context of the growing debate about the possibility of Anglican-Methodist union. He said that, much as he loved Methodism, he feared only slow but certain

denomination. He did not believe the Methodist tradition had the capacity to renew itself in isolation from the source of its original inspiration. He went on to hope that he would end his days as a priest in the Church of England, within which, he

believed, it was Methodism's destiny to be a preaching order. The collapse of formal union talks between the two churches in 1968 grievously disappointed him and he became a more isolated and detached figure in the denominational landscape, though still a familiar name and face in national life

The churches were emptying and the Kingsway Hall closed down. Soper still had Tower Hill and Speak ers' Corner, he served on the GLC and became an alderman, and then in 1965 the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, offered Britain's most prominent Christian socialist a new platform, in the House of Lords. Donald Soper became Baron Soper. Some of his friends were bewildered; he had long advocated the abolition of the second chamber and claimed that class divisions were at the root of

many of Britain's problems and frequently expressed republican sympathies. His justifications were tortuous and the simplest explanation is the most likely - he was never one to refuse the offer of a new and influential platform from which to argue the Christian case, and, if the price was a certain amount of lordly flummery, so be it.

His last years were punctuated by celebrations to mark various anniversaries. On his 90th birthday, the BBC transmitted a special Songs of Praise programme from Hinde Street Methodist Church. Though he had admirers all over the world and a constant stream of visitors found their way to Soper's north London home to pay their respects, the great public performer was, in fact, a very private man who had outlived his few close friends. Marie's death in 1994 devastated him, and exposed a deep well of loneliness, though he was sustained by generations of a loving family.

Rendered increasingly infirm with a form of arthritis, he finally became quite immobile, his mind as sharp as ever but his body a dead weight. Yet twice a week, regardless of the weather, he was manhandled out of his house into a car and lifted by main force on to his soapbox at Tower Hill and Hyde Park. It was a majestic demonstration of sheer indomitable Christian will.

If his determination to carry on his open-air ministry right to the end was one example of his awesome single-mindedness, the massive consistency of his pacifist witness was another. Over 70 years he never deviated from the belief that the use of force could not in any circumstances be reconciled with the spirit of Christ. Wars and conflicts came and went, and at Speakers' Corner, they were analysed, chewed over and argued about. Soper's attempts to spell out a better way seemed to his critics naive or hopelessly idealistic, but for him, pacifism was a testimony to the perfect law of the Kingdom. It was what Jesus commanded, and that was that:

He was a prophet, not a strategist, and it is the prophet's job to call down the wrath of God on a disobedient society, not to propose detailed programmes of action. Confronted on television by concentration-camp survivors who asked him what other than massive force could have smashed the Nazi tyranny which destroyed them in millions, he had no convincwas not shaken; the critics might berate him but he would not budge.

Donald Soper was a holy man but not a solemn one. Arguably the most influential Methodist leader of the 20th century, his unique ministry touched the life of church and nation at many points, and he discharged his ordination vows not just with utter faithfulness but with that indefinable quality, style. His was a gallant, debonair faith, yet under all the layers of sophistication he was at hea a simple believer. Jesus was his master and friend right up to the end.

COLIN MORRIS

Donald Oliver Soper, minister of the church: born London 31 January 1903; Superintendent, West London Mission, Kingsway Hall 1936-78: President. Methodist Conference 1953; created 1965 Baron Soper; Chairman, Shelter 1974-78; married 1929 Marie Dean (died 1994: four daughters); died London 22 December 1998.

Janet Murrow

JANET MURROW saw the Second World War from a front-row seat. In 1937 she and her husband, Edward R. Murrow, later the United States' best-known broadcaster, moved to London. At the beginning of the war she worked with Mrs Winston Churchill in the London "Bundles for Britain" Office. She supped at the White House the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. She was one of the first recipients of the King's Medal for Freedom, awarded for her contribution to Anglo-American relations. Later she gave great support to her Alma Mater, Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, America's pioneer institution for the education of women.

She was born Janet Brewster, in 1910, a Connecticut Yankee of Anglo-Swedish stock, the elder daughter of a prosperous car dealer, whose ancestor had crossed the Atlantic in the Mayflower. Kingman Brewster, President Carter's American Ambassador in London, was her first cousin.

In late 1932, when she was the president of the student body at Mount Holyoke, she happened to share a carriage with Ed Murrow on a train journey down to New Orleans. Both were on their way to a conference of the Institute of International Education, which helped to bring out refugee German scholars. Murrow had just become its Assistant Director, Janet Brewster was doing postgraduate work in economics and was a gifted summer reperto-

ry actress. The fellow travellers' long discussion was not limited to the conference agenda. In New Orleans Murrow invited Brewster to breakfast. He ordered strawberries. It was midwinter and she was impressed.

After a courtship largely conducted by letter they married in 1934, honeymooned in Mexico, and settled in New York. A year later the Columbia Broadcasting System en-gaged Murrow as Director of Talks, and in 1937 sent him to London as its European Director, Murrow did not act as a reporter himself until pressed into service the night Hitler's storm troopers took over Austria. He then made the first of over 5,000 broadcasts to the United States which rapidly brought him to the front rank of American radio correspondents and made him a popular hero on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the early weeks of the war Janet Murrow helped to evacuate schoolchildren from London to the countryside. She also broadcast for the CBS network, contributing short sketches of Britain at war. Shortly before Christmas 1940 she organised the London office of Bundles for Britain, working alongside its honorary chairman. Clementine Churchill, who became a close friend. By the middle of 1941 American women had sent to Britain 500,000 pieces of clothing, 72 mobile feeding units and \$2.5m in contributions. After Churchill became Prime Minister the Murrows were

'Only a girl born in Middletown, Connecticut, who went to Mount Holyoke, would think twice about inviting in the man who saved her life!'

On the first night of the London Blitz, while Murrow prowled the streets gathering information, Janet climbed through the roof door of their Hallam Street flat, close to Broadcasting House, to watch the bombardment of the East End. As the planes drew nearer she headed for the stairway door which had snapped shut from the inside. Shrapnel fell around her as she tried desperately to signal for help from pedestrians running for shelter in the street below. Eventually she caught the attention of a lone passerby who raced up six flights of stairs to release her and conduct her safely to her flat. Janet subsequently told Murrow of her dilemma. Should frequent guests at 10 Downing Street. she invite him in for a drink? Would



he think it improper? She decided she had better not

Murrow, the youngest son of a poor lumberman's family in the American North-West, laughed uproariously. "Only a girl born in Middletown, Connecticut, who went to Mount Holyoke," he declared, "would think twice about inviting in the man who had just saved her life!"

During the heavy bombing of London Janet Murrow was again busy arranging for the evacuation of children, this time not to the English countryside, but to homes generously offered in the United States. She served on the British-American Liaison Board, which helped to ease friction between American GIs and

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throughout England lecturing for the American Embassy and for the Ministry of Information on American life to schools, civil defence units and other groups. She also gave a course on American history on BBC schools programmes. In 1946 she was awarded the King's Medal for Freedom in recognition of her services to international understanding.

In autumn 1941 the Murrows returned for a short visit to the US their first since Christmas 1938. On 7 December they were getting ready for a game of golf in Washington to be followed by supper at the White House and a private briefing for President Roosevelt on the situation in Britain. The news of the Japanese bombing of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor broke that afternoon. When Janet telephoned the White House she was told the meal was still on. The Murrows ate scrambled eggs with Mrs Roosevelt while the President conducted a cabinet meeting.

Murrow's turn in the Oval Office came shortly after midnight. Roosevelt asked him about morale in England and told him of the actual damage at Pearl Harbor: "Did this surprise you?" "Yes, Mr President." "Maybe you think it didn't surprise us!" Murrow said

later: "I believed him." The President had not declared that his remarks about the damage to the fleet were off the record. Janet Murrow watched her husband pace the hotel room for the rest of that

night trying to decide whether he should tell the story the President had given him. In the end he decided he ought not to, in the interest of national security.

In 1944 Murrow began an affair with Pamela Churchill, the daughter of Lord Digby - the separated wife of Randolph Churchill and later, as Pamela Harriman, President Clinton's ambassador to France. Their relationship was open knowledge. and Janet Murrow subsequently described it as "Quite an experience

for Ed... She was a great beauty." In September 1944 Janet, exhausted both by her work and the strain on her marriage, returned to the United States. Murrow sent her many conscience-driven letters and cables, and in November he flew out to join her. They had a holiday in Florida, played golf, and had a good time, she recalled

It was particularly good because at 35, after 10 years of repeated disappointments, Janet found herself pregnant. Their son, Casey, was born in London in November 1945. Murrow returned to New York in mid-December to discuss his future with CBS. Pamela, whose divorce from Randolph Churchill was now absolute, headed also for New York and for 10 days she and Murrow went everywhere together. He returned to London to tell Janet he wanted a divorce. Three weeks later he cabled Pamela in Palm Beach: "Casey wins." She was shattered.

The Murrows flew home to New York in March 1946, leaving many friends from their nine years in London Janet was deeply involved in motherhood and in establishing homes in both New York City and Pawling, NY Ed steadily enhanced his reputation with radio news analyses and television documentaries, notably See It Now, the programme which toppled Senator Joseph McCarthy.

In 1961 President Kennedy made him Director of the United States Information Agency. A heavy chain smoker, in 1965 he died of a brain tumour. The Queen had awarded him an honorary knighthood shortly be-

fore his death. Janet, who had always hankered after an academic career, returned to Mount Holyoke College in 1970. She worked for nine years in its Art Museum, eventually becoming the Executive Director of the Art Advisory Committee. She also served for two 10-year terms as a member of the Board of Trustees, and travelled widely, raising over \$2m on behalf of the college. She frequently came back for long periods to stay in England, her second home.

LEONARD MIALL

Janet Huntington Brewster, public servant: born Middleton, Connecticut 18 September 1910; mag ried 1934 Edward R. Murrow (died 1965: one son); died Needham, Massachusetts 18 December 1998.

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THE ST NUTS ROAST

fire Bing Crosby sin Thristmas on the g Christmases aren't i Perhaps you can only that in black and who "ar i can guarantee Eruce Willis film, w houting and the occ explosion. The reason Spending the weeken Edward and Aunt Jul Uncle Edward is # brother who took ear ir_{um a} smali **örm of s** two years ago and had everyone insane ever believes there's such Steady job", for heav will no doubt lecture? Subject over the festive before I decide to go i stomp across the field But Uncle E isn't i a vear chance to show us Unlike my meth

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Bill Allen

BILL ALLEN was a polymath. He had a flair for finding relationships between science and design which set him in good stead for a wide and varied career. Over the years he served as Chief Architect (and Deputy Head, Physics) of

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the Building Research Station, Garston (now the BR Establishment), Principal of the Architectural Association School, London (1961-66) and a founding partner in 1962 of the London-based architectural practice of Bickerdike, Allen & Partners which currently employs a staff of 50.

John Bickerdike (who died in 1982) and Allen complemented each other in the practice. Bickerdike's strength was that of the architect-designer while Allen's commitment to architecture, science and technology allowed for a wide range of commissions. Both worked closely together on the designs of the Royal College of Music. Manchester, and the Royal Academy of Music, London.

The Bickerdike Allen Partnership has become widely known as one of the leading-edge consultancies in the field of building defects, litigation and repairs. It specialises in the resolution of the design and constructional problems that affect modern buildings. It was however in the fields of acoustics, lighting. constructional technologies that Allen excelled, and he developed the consultancy's services in these specialist areas.

Architect, educator, lecturer, landscape painter and scientist manque, Bill Allen came from a distinguished family of Canadian academics. It was his father, a professor of physics at the University of Manitoba, who introduced his son into the "black art" (as Bill Allen called it) of acoustics. His brother is Emeritus Professor of Physics at St Andrews and his sister was both a photographer and an economics professor. In 1932, Allen began his career at the University of Manitoba's School of Architecture graduating in 1936 with the university's Gold Medal.

Forfeiting an opportunity to go to Harvard, he moved instead to England in 1936. Here he worked for Louis de Soisson in Welwyn Garden City, where he resided for the rest of his life and where he designed his family house. He lived for his work and his family and never stopped talking about either.

He was a good companion and a totally reliable source of information and good advice. His impish sense of humour and wonderful Canadian accent made him a great raconteur. He could liven up any discussion or even - as I experienced on many an occasion - a boring debate or a dull committee.

After his stint in de Soisson's office. he moved on to the Building Research Station, near Watford, as a building researcher. There in the post-war period he became deputy head of physics and and a BRS acoustics team in the design 1961 he was Chief Architect, BRS, before taking up the challenging post of Principal of the AA School, London, where he staved until 1966 despite the school's avant-gardists' distrust of his scientific background. For some of them architecture and analytical science did not mix. For Bill Allen it was inextricable.

He encouraged the teaching of the principles of construction at the AA School, bringing in many of the build-



Principal of the Architectural Association School, London, 1961-66

ing scientists he had worked with at BRS to give lectures, crits and seminars. His interest in science and technology was leavened by a genuine passion for architectural history and theory. A number of architectural historians and Modern Movement architect theorists came in - including myself - to broaden the basis of teaching in this area. He also encouraged the publication of research studies and technical theses. A decade of so ago he changed from

Bill Allen chaired or served countless committees and councils including the RIBA, of which he was a Vice-President, and the Institute of Acoustics, of which he was a joint founder. He received many honours including Commander of the Order of Merit, Portugal (for his work for the Gulbenkian Foundation), an Hon LLD from his own university (Manitoba), and honorary fellowships from the American and New Zealand Institutes

He had an acute awareness of the odd, strange and comic events in life, illustrating Arthur Koestler's contention that such associations are the well of creativity

being a leading acoustics expert - after expert in display lighting, particularly the lighting of museums, galleries and individual objects as his work at the National Gallery, Waddesdon Manor (for Jacob Rothschild) where he introduced pin-point fibre optics into display cabinets to highlight the object and obviate heat gain, the Divinity School, Oxford, the Frick Collection, New York, and the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, a job he was still working on the week before he died.

BIRTHS,

& DEATHS

MEMORIAL

SERVICES

(Protocol), Room 14, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard. Westminster Abbey, London SWIP 3PA. Tickets will be posted by 7 January.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATES (Births.

Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

But honours were not exactly his ne was work. This he dur sued with intelligence, tremendous energy and boundless enthusiasm. He combined his huge interest in people. places and things with an acute awareness of the odd, strange and comic events in life, thus perfectly illustrating his friend Arthur Koestler's contention that such associations are the well of creativity. A former partner recalls that "the harshest criticism he made of an acquaintance of some 20 years was that he

had never told Bill a joke!" Allen was never bored by office routine, but always encouraged those around him to achieve ingenious results of high quality, whether a report or a design.

Over the past few weeks Allen had lectured in the US and after returning home immediately went straight off to Lisbon to continue work on the third redesign of the layout of the Gulbenkian Museum. By all accounts, he came home exhausted and ended up in hospital in Welwyn Garden City.

At the age of 75. Allen had relinquished his partnership in the practice to become a consultant and to give himself the time to produce his book The Building Envelope (1997). It was no ordinary technical handbook, rather an extraordinary account of both a technical subject and a career. It was inspired and dedicated to his own mentor, R. Fitzmaurice of the BRE, the main author of Principles of Modern Building, the first volume of which was issued in 1939. It was r itzmaurice who, as Alien explains, hi elled his own enthusiasm for a marriage between architecture and science. His book, with its autobiographical slant, is

itself a record of this union. DENNIS SHARP

William Alexander Allen, architect: born Winnipeg, Canada 29 June 1914; CBE 1980; married Tessa Pearson (two sons); died Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire 14 December 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

ALAN RUSH

Rape, pillage and slaughter in Baghdad

RECENT ATTACKS on Iraq have been regretted by almost everyone familiar with the history of that benighted land. Its historical records are packed with evidence that it was a dangerous place long before Saddam Hussein gained power. And so it will surely remain until generals and statesmen, like scholars, attempt to enter the Arab mind and learn from the past. Meanwhile, ancient conflicts are re-enacted with the same results - the alienation of the Iraqi people and the prolongation of a tradition of violence that has haunted

Baghdad for centuries. Founded in AD 762 as the capital of the Abbasid Caliphs, Baghdad became a centre of Islamic culture and a nodal point on the trade routes connecting India, Persia and China with Europe and Asia Minor. The decline that followed its subjection to the Mongois in 1258 ended in the 16th century when it joined the Ottoman Empire. After Turkey's defeat in the First World War, the region became a British mandate. With British support a Hashemite monarchy was established in 1921. Its British connections were always unpopular and never more so than after the Suez crisis. In July 1958, the royal family was massacred and Iraq became a republic in which the Baath socialist party acquired the powers which are now monopolised by Saddam Hussein. Against this backdrop, the tion and foreign intervention. The region, then called Mesopotamia or Turkish Arabia, was ruled by Mamelukes. Although officially servants of the Ottoman sultans in Constantinople, they wielded power locally. Like Saddam Hussein, however, they lived in constant dread of deposition - or worse. Of the nine Mamelukes who ruled Iraq until 1831, six were either murdered or executed.

The last Mameluke ruler. Daud Pasha, was born in Tiflis in 1767. He was sold as a pretty child in Baghdad's slave market and later in life he exploited his looks, erudition and connections to ensure a brilliant career. As "Pasha of Baghdad, Bussorah and Courdistan", he dazzled visitors with the splendour of his audience chamber, the uniforms of his guards, the ceremonials of his court. "His state," wrote the dilettante and archaeologist Sir Robert Ker Porter, "was perfectly that of a royal prince." Beneath the surface, however, violence was endemic. Accounts of the period state that "towns and lands were sold to be governed by this or that favourite slave or genial courtier, Aghas still bullied, troopers still raped and robbed". British traders deplored the Pasha's disapproval of their privileges, while the Sultan, Mahmud II. as a moderniser and devotee of Rossini operas, consid-

early 19th century stands out ered him and all Mamelukes as a period of strite, destitu- an offensive anachronism. In 1830 orders arrived from Constantinople: Daud Pasha must surrender his authori-

> ty to direct Turkish rule. The events which followed his refusal to obey were horrifying. After the strangling of the Sultan's emissary, Turkthe appointed successor, Ali Ridha. Meanwhile another force had arrived - the plague. In April 1831, 7,000 people fell victim to it. As Ali Ridha's sponsors besieged Baghdad. famine set in. Dogs devoured the dead while orphans wept and adults looted and burned the grandest houses including the Pasha's. The Tigris river then flooded its banks and destroyed 7,000 houses.

In September, Daud Pasha accepted a compromise enabling him to save his honour and guarantee his Mamelukes compensation for accepting the new regime. The latter were assembled in the palace courtyard when Ali Ridha made his entry. Within minutes his Albanian guards had received secret orders. Rushing forward they slaughtered the Mamelukes to a man. Meanwhile Daud Pasha had left Baghdad for his estate at Bursa. After a period of rest, he became Wali of Bosnia and, finally, Guardian of the Prophet's Tomb at Medina, where he died in 1851.

Alan Rush is the editor of Records of Iraq' (Archive Editions: 15 volumes, £3.995)

GAZETTE

DEATHS

BURGNER: On Tuesday 22 December, peacefully in Barnet General Hospital, Dodo, much-loved mother of Anja and Tom, grand—other of Clare, Nicola, David, seven, great-grandmother of Byron and Olga. Funeral 24 December, 12 45pm, Golders Green Crematorium. No flowers, donations, if desired, to the Association of Lewish Refusees.

McTAGUE: George, 21 December peacefully in hospital, of Harro-gate. North Yorkshire, aged 82 years. Much-loved husband of Norah, dear father of Teresa, Peter. Michael, Elleen, Paul, Moira and Fiona, a dear father-in-law and Grandad. Requiem Mass will be calchysted at \$1 Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's RC Church, Harrogate, on Thursday 24 December at 10.30am, followed by inter-ment at Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate. Any enquiries to Mahony & Ward. Pudsey, tele-phone in 19 255595.

WELL-JONES: Robert
Fames, beloved son of Ann
Paludan and John Powell-Jones,
father of Stella, Died in York, 17
December, Fimeral, St George's
RC Church, George Street, York,
11am, 24 December

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Richard Muir, to be ambassador to the State of Mr Bill Stow, to be UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union at Brussels.

Dr David Clark MP, to be Chairman of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom. The Most Rev Dr R.H.A. Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, to be an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry 7

Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

MARRIAGES 65: Queen Silvia of Sweden. 55; Sir Franklin Berman, legal adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 59; Mrs Christine Bicknell, for mer Chairman, CSSB. 79; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, 91; Lord Blake, former Editor. Dictionary of National Biog-SAINSBURY: A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of
Lord Sainsbury will be held in St
Margaret's Church, Westminster
Abbey, at noon on Thursday 14
January. Those wishing to
attend are asked to apply in
writing, enclosing a stamped
addressed envelope, to: The
Assistant Receiver General
(Protocol). Room 14. The raphy, 82; Mrs Helen Brinton MP, 44; Professor Timothy Burt, Master, Hatfield College, Durham University, 47; Mr David Davis MP. 50; Sir Peter Davis, chief executive, Prudential Corporation, 56; Mr Maurice Denham, actor, 89; Mr John Guinness, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 63; Mr Yousuf Karsh, portrait photographer, 90; Mr Graham Kelly, former chief executive, the Football Association, 53; Professor Peter Lachmann, President, Royal College of Pathologists. 67; Miss Belinda Lang, actress, 45; Mr Christopher Lawrence, goldsmith, silversmith and modeller, 62; Miss Joan Quennell, former MR 75; Mr Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. 80; The Rev Christopher Turner, former Headmaster,

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Robert Barclay, Quaker writer, 1648; Frans

Enterprises, 73.

van Mieris the Younger. painter, 1689; Sir Richard Emperor Akihito of Japan. Arkwright, inventor of the spinning frame. 1732; Alexan-

Dean Close and Stowe Schools, 69; Mr Rayner Unwin, chairman, Unwin

Deaths: Henri I de de Lorraine, third Duc de Guise, assassinated 1588: William Davison, Scottish Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth I, 1608; George Catlin, artist and writer, 1872; Laurence Oliphant, journalist and traveller, 1888; Jean-Baptiste Edouard Detaille, painter. 1912; Anthony Herman Gerard Fokker, aircraft designer, 1939; Charles Dana Gibson, artist and illustrator, 1944; Hideki Tojo, former Japanese prime minister. hanged 1948; Eric Coates. composer, 1957; Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, first Earl of Halifax. Viceroy of India, 1959.

der I, Tsar of Russia, 1777;

Jean-François Champollion,

Egyptologist and decipherer

1804; Joseph Smith, founder

Saints), 1805; "Lord" George

Baron Rank, miller and film

of the Mormons (Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Sanger, circus proprietor.

1827: Joseph Arthur, first

magnate, 1888.

of the Rosetta Stone, 1790:

Charles-Augustin Sainte-

Beuve, writer and critic.

On this day: HMS Bounty. commanded by William Bligh, sailed from Spithead for the South Seas, 1787; the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" (its true title was "A Visit from St Nicholas"), by Clement

Clarke Moore, was printed in the Troy Sentinel, New York, 1823; Joseph Hansom patented a type of cab. 1834; the Aldwych Theatre, London, opened, 1905: a bomb was thrown at Lord Hardinge. Viceroy of India, as he entered the new capital at Delhi, 1912; the Federal Reserve Bank was founded in the United States, 1913; in Germany, Marinus Van der Lubbe, a Dutchman, was found guilty of setting fire to the Reichstag and was sentenced to death, 1933; Managua, capital of Nicaragua, was destroyed by an earthquake, with a loss of 12,000 lives, 1972.

Today is the Feast Day of St Dagobert II of Austrasia, St Frithebert, St John of Kanti, St Servulus, the Ten Martyrs of Crete, St Thorlac and Saints Victoria and Anatolia.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimmell, "Ceramic Tiles", 2pm.

LUNCHEONS

HM Government Mr George Robertson MP. Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Admiralty House, London SW1, in bonour of Mr Rudolf Scharping, Minister for Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany.

'There won't be a Christmas in Lockerbie'

LOCKERBIE AWOKE vesterday to a chili, grey sky and a noisy reminder that small-town life would never be the same again. A Sea King helicopter clattered overhead, disturbing the dawn. It swung towards the hills at the eastern edge of town. There, the night before. a horror story had unfolded. Wreckage from the stricken jumbo jet and dozens of bodies had burtled through the dark-Douglas Home reports ness to the ground. Part of an engine came to rest by a

beech tree. The bodies were strewn about the grass fields. Retired policeman Alan Place heard a bang, a whistling noise. and then the sound of debris falling on his roof. He joined the search for survivors, but found only bodies: 40 within one and a half miles of his home. He said yesterday: "They had bounced and left craters in the ground. It was an horrific sight."

Down the slope, in a field abutting back gardens in Rosebank Crescent, there were three aircraft seats, still joined together. A Pan American In-Flight Duty Free Shop brochure was stuck on a fence. "Play and win. See inside" was written across the bottom right-hand corner.

An AA sergeant, Scott Maxwell, was one of the first people on the scene. He called in emergency services on his van radio after the crash had put local telephones out of operation. Mr Maxwell had just finished work and returned to his home in West Acres, Lockerbie. when the crash happened. "Even through the closed curtains I could see a massive orange ball lighting up the outside of the house," he said. "My daughter was upstairs in her bedroom and started screamTHE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE **23 DECEMBER 1988**

At 7.03pm on 21 December, Pan Am Flight 103 blew up over Lockerbie. Mark

ing. I rushed outside and saw a ball of flame 200 yards to the rear of the house.

from Dumfriesshire

"It hit the main road and then bounced on the top of the houses there. The devastation was horrific. The damage to the houses, the bodies - words just can't describe it."

The wreckage hurtled over the railway lines which dissect the town, and headed west. It sliced off the roofs of some houses overlooking the busy A74 dual carriageway, the main road from Glasgow to Carlisle. Then it flattened maybe six

others, setting them alight. In the mayhem of falling wreckage and a blazing shower from thousands of gallons of spilled jet fuel, a huge crater was formed beside the easternmost carriageway. Five cars travelling south on the road were engulfed, their occupants dead. A maroon Vauxhall Cavalier was still there vesterday morning. Its mock-tigerskin upholstery was sprinkled with glass from the broken windscreen. It was angled across the carriageway, which had completely disappeared beneath mud and boulders gouged from the crater, some 70 yards long and 15 deep.

The wreckage which caused this terrible damage must nearly have passed over the home of Annie Rafferty, 77. She was out when the disaster happened, but she could not return to her home on Wednesday night. Two boulders had torn through the roof of the building. Yesterday morning, after spending a night at the King's Arms, she tidied up her doorstep with a dustpan. "It's terrible, it's terrible. It really is," she said. "What a crash that must have been. There were bairns too. It's pathetic."

In a few seconds, this quiet respectable market town in Dumfriesshire had become a disaster area. On Wednesday night the roads were full of police cars, fire engines, ambulances and flashing lights. The town hall had become a mortuary. The community centre was a resting place for emergency

teams drafted in from all around. An RAF mountain-rescue Land Rover was parked on the pavement outside the Presto supermarket. The cars of scores of television crews, reporters and photographers lined the main street. But there was still tinsel in the shop windows. In Moffats, a newsagent's in the high street. Margaret Tweedie sold the papers as usual. The front pages told of the night's tragedy. "Everyone is very sad. They are devastated." Mrs Tweedie said. "It's horrifying really. There certainly won't be a Christmas

in Lockerbie. From the front page of The

Independent', Friday 23 December 1988

both England and America

Words AT THE small Arno Bay Hotel, in Port Lincoln. Australia, there has been CHRISTOPHER controversy over plans HAWTREE for a casino. Wowsers are against it.

wowser, n. The MP Nick Xenophon. no less, claims that "this

that this word - etymology isn't about being a wowser.

maddeningly obscure, and a strange first syllable for this is a social-impact something that means a issue". That's their problem, but for us the surprise is killjoy-was in recent use in have Toronto".

before becoming Australian. In 1963 The Economist called Barry Goldwater an "alien wowser" and The Times in 1977 described the licensing laws as "the work of wowsers", while Pierre Trudeau made the stylish remark, in Australia, that "you have wowserism; we

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Richard Dawkins, do people find you intimidating? Or have you made science sexy?)



lutionary biologist and author of The Selfish Gene. was born in Nairobi in 1941. He was educated at Oxford University and became the first Charles Simonvi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University in 1995. He lives in Oxford with his third wife, the actress Lalla Ward, best known for her role in Dr Who, and has a daughter, Juliet, from a previous marriage. His latest book, Unweaving the Rainbow, is published by Penguin.

Would you say Darwin is sexist, and would you say you're sexist? Andrea Crane, Norbury

I don't think Darwinism is particularly sexist. But if it were, I'm afraid that would be just tough, for the truth is no respecter of political preferences. I disapprove of discrimination against (and in favour of) women. I support what I think of as the good parts of feminism, while laughing at the pretentious parts - like saying gender when you mean sex. I get an obscure pleasure from the fact that more than half these questions were sent in by women. Is that sexist?

Is there some sort of arcane link between your background and the fact that your wife, Lalla, was in Dr Who?

Joanna Martin, Cornwall No. But she did read Darwin's Origin of Species when she was 14 and before we met she had read all my

professional biologists. The statistician in me reluctantly points out Belloc's "To the Balliol men still in that even this is less of a link than you might think - because it is hard to name a book Lalla has not read.

Was Mother Teresa selfish? Jane Appleby, Nottingham

The answer may be a surprising "Yes". A good case has been made that Mother Teresa was callously uncompassionate towards her patients, being more interested in saving their "souls" than in relieving their suffering. She may have believed she was buying her place in heaven. Others have devoted their lives to deeds as saintly as Mother Teresa's, but without her hope of posthumous reward.

I hated biology at school but loved your book. Have you made science

Chloe Gibbard, Colchester Not for me to say. I hope you think so.

Who would you most like to have dinner with tonight? Hanlon, Warwick

David Attenborough. I actually amsupposed to be having dinner with him tonight but I'm developing a cough and have a horrible feeling I'm going to have to cancel.

When was the last time you cried? Kathy Atkinson, Sheffield

I am quite a soppy person and a book can bring me to tears. It doesn't have to be sad. It may have been Lalla's beautiful voice reading Gertrude's lines on the death of Ophelia. Or the books, including The Extended story of Einstein's last words (for Phenotype which was written for ever unknown because the nurse

understood no German). Or Hilaire Africa". Trite but... see what I mean

Would it be true to say that you have a rather shallow understanding of religion?

Kevin O'Donnell, Crowthorne I doubt that religion can survive deep understanding. The shallows are its natural habitat. The Bible as literature should be a compulsory part understand English literature and culture without it. Meanwhile, we should devote as much time to studying serious theology as we devote to studying serious fairies and serious unicorns.

You seem so cynical about human life - how can you bear to get up in the mornings? Sara Moore, Aston

Unweaving the Rainbow opens with this very question. And I quote from later in the book:

Send questions for DJ John Peel,

Finnegan to: You Ask The Questions,

Features, The Independent, 1 Cana-

da Square, Canary Wharf, London.

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Your books completely changed the way I see the world; what do you think the major effect of The Blind Watchmaker or The Selfish Gene has been?

Barry Shamplin, Ilford I am happy, and a bit humbled, to tell you that quite a lot of readers have said something similar.

You are very emotional on the subject of religion. Did you suffer from religion in your childhood? Joan Modlin, East Dulwich

The answer to your rather patronising question is no, I had a liberal upbringing and was never op-

people find clarity intimidating

What would you most like to be remembered for? Julia Norris, Salford

pressed by religion. Just as anybody

who writes exceptionally clearly is

damned as "simplistic", it is often

assumed that anybody who feels ex-

ceptionally strongly about some-

thing must therefore be emotional

or irrational, fanatical or traumatised

What is your favourite way of

You've got such a reputation for

being clever; are people intimi-

Obviously I hope not. If my hopes are

knows me thinks I am intimidating. And I'm not particularly clever, per-

haps just clear. I suspect that some

wrong, I am nonplussed, even hert.

I don't think anybody who really

Louisa Dillon, Primrose Hill

In human intercourse.

Ian Usborne, Edinburgh

dated by you?

relaxing?

In the words of Hilaire Belloc: "When I am gone, I hope it may be said/ His sins were scarlet, but his books were read."

Would you describe yourself as selfish?

Simon Eldon, St Neots In less happy times, a publication once asked me to compose my own epitaph, and because it was a charitable publication I obliged.

"Others lived beyond his means: a giver, not a taker. He was less selfish than his genes; more blind than

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THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

20: ROUND ROBIN LETTERS BY ROSS CLARK

ITS THAT time of year again: when the round robins come bob. bob bobbin' through your letterbox. By Christmas Eve you'll know all about Martha's hip operation, will have heard about Clive and Louise's trip to Hawaii, and will know why poor Elmer can't be with the family this Christmas.

Round robins always pose the same question: who the hell are all these people? You probably haven't seen the sender for several years, let alone their friends and acquaintances. You're never going to meet them, either, because one of the main objects of a round robin letter is to describe, in luxuriant detail, all the family feasts that Derek and Sheila couldn't quite find room to invite you to. The party to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary

in July was blessed with

what party, you hear yourself saying. How come I wasn't asked' It is only in the last five

years that the round robin letter has taken off here. Before that, the only one you got was from that nice couple from Alabama you once met in a B&B in Salcombe. When their round robin arrived you read it out loud and had a good giggle. Ah, well, you said, those Americans! But it's not just Americans any more. It's Dick and Vera from Carshalton, Reg and Marigold from Ipswich.

But what is the point of a people as reticent as the English trying to give their news on a photocopied sheet of A4? If something genuinely interesting has happened in the last 12 months, they're not going to tell you about it. They never say: "In May, Dick had a brief fling with his



No round robins please, we're British Gary Doak

secretary. Vera's first instinct was to seek a divorce and screw him for every penny, but now they're trying to patch things up for the sake of the children." You never get one admitting: "Ryan's been terribly troubled by his acne this year. We think it was the anxiety that led to his being pulled up for

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The Insolvency Act 1986
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(is Liquidasion)
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above named Company by the
Members and Creditors on 16th
December 1998.
PETER LOMAS, Liquidator

Unusual Gifts

AIGS MICHAEL IACOVIDES and MICHAEL HERBERT HINTON

shoplifting in WH Smith's in Basingstoke, but it's all behind him now and the new cream is working well."

No, all you get is a commentary of the weather at family events: showers at Brian and Julia's wedding, five degrees of frost at great-aunt Bertha's funeral.

What a blissful age it was before the word processor was invented, when your fourth cousin three times removed couldn't run off 100 identical letters at the press of a button.

Technology can't be uninvented, but there is one tactic you can use to defend yourself just send a card back and write: "What a splendid idea to send your Christmas greetings in a chain letter. I think we did what we were supposed to do: we sent photocopies to 10 people picked at random from the phone book. Good luck to you too in '99."

That should stop them.

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past...

to Santa's Grotto' but there's still one business that's booming: shoplifting. By Emma Cook

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

IN TWO WEEKS' TIME: DJ JOHN PEEL, THÊN

DAYTIME TV PRESENTERS RICHARD AND JUDY

Retailers may complain about recession on the high street this Christmas,

'Suspect on his way

ADRIAN STANDS motionless behind a display of men's underpants, staring fixedly at an elderly gentleman fishing through a rack of socks. He looks innocent enough, but within minutes he's been singled out from the swarm of last-minute Christmas shoppers in Selfridges on Oxford Street. "You get a second sense about people," says Adrian, darting from behind his Calvin Klein camouflage to another vantage point - a potted palm beside one of Selfridges' grand white pillars. "Sometimes you can't pretend to be a shopper; you have to find a spot to get a really close view of the sus-

pect," he explains. It's hardly the high drama of Cops, but Adrian Pannett, 38, Selfridges' chief store detective, has his moments. A high-speed chase through women's separates, perhaps, even a scuffle in Santa's Grotto. Recently, a woman stuffed so much merchandise down her leggings, they ended up around her ankles when she tried to sprint down Oxford Street. Another woman embarrassed Adrian acutely by shouting "Rape!" as be chased her out through the door. And there was the man who tried to leg it with a solitaire diamond worth £7,000. When Adrian collared him in the perfumery department, he threw it high in the air, shout-

ing "This one's on me, darling". Two days before Christmas, the season of reckless criminal activity has reached its zenith. Peace and good will don't extend to crime, which flourishes from the end of November until the end of the New Year sales - shoplifting offences rise by 10 per cent. A retail crime survey carried out by the British Retail Consortium says there's been a huge increase in theft in the last year - it is up by 42 per cent, costing shops nearly £47m. Shoplifting last year cost £1.83bn, including

crime prevention measures. Last year, Asda lost £1.3m to theft. It adopted a "zero tolerance" policy, now adopted by other stores, whereby shoplifters face a bill for compensation, paying around £130 per



He's behind you: Adrian Pannett on duty in Selfridges

offence to cover legal fees Most shops are gearing up for a grimmer festive period than usual, after a year dogged by threats of a world-wide recession. Even in Selfridges, the crowds seem thinner than usual. Pannett has caught 30 per cent more shoplifters this Christmas than last - though it's hard to know whether financial gloom has tempted more ingénues, or surveillance has improved. Selfridges has invested in 160 state-of-the-art security cameras and has 12 store

detectives on the shop floor, In the hi-tech security centre, lined with television screens, Adrian, who used to work in the Marines, shows me a "Best of ... " video: a series of fumbling opportunists caught on camera. In some cases their sheer gall is impressive: people who stalk out of the food hall with a frozen turkey pushed down their trousers, or pile 20 designer jumpers inside a coat. You almost pity the nervous ones, looking like frightened rabbits as they pick up clothes

or books, shaking, looking

around, then putting them

back. "They're the ones who've been hit by adrenalin," says Adrian "They can't see any thing. Their heart's racing. You can tell it's getting to them."

Once they're caught, Adrian takes them to a holding-room until the police arrive. It sounds pretty grim: cameras, no door handle on the inside and no windows. Adrian says: "Sometimes we do close the door on them -we've had people who pull out knives, syringes." After 18 years Adrian has a

pretty good idea of the dominant categories that "lifters", as he calls them, can fall into. A noticeboard behind him is covered with details of what he calls your classic Prolific Lifter - someone who steals for a living, sells merchandise on, often has to support a hefty drug habit and has been prosecuted several times. There's also the Opportunist Lifter - anyone from a housewife to a businessman: and the Label Lifter - out for a specific fashion item. And there's the Emotional Lifter, who steals because they're clinically depressed or distressed. These Adrian says

Kalpesh Lathigra

he doesn't much enjoy catching. He talks about the time he caught a young woman stealing some clothes. She was suffer ing from post-natal depression. "It was the worst job I've ever done - I didn't want to give evidence against her," he says. As a father himself, he sympathises with parents who are distraught to discover that their teenager has been caught swiping a Nike sweatshirt or a Mac lipstick. "Sometimes you just think, There but for the grace of God go T."

He tilts his head and listens to a tiny radio earphone. "Suspect in Santa's Grotto. Blue coat and hat. Heading away from the toy department." He races up the escalators and fights his way through a crowd of children. Too late; the suspect has disappeared. "He was off his head. Drugs or drink," says a security guard.

Still, Adrian's had his piece of action for the day. "It can boring when there's nothing happening," he says, "I love it when it's busy. There's a message in your earphone. You get that adrenalin buzz...'

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

ARTHRELL, Cyril William Alexandra Arthrell, otherwise vril William Arthrell, late of Hoo, Rochester, Kent, died there on 18t July 1998. (Estate about £30,000).

BING. see DANN, Joan Elsie Bing see Dann, Widow, late of Gillinghom. Kent, died there on 15 April 1998. (Estate about £18,000).

arount 118,000).

BOWDEN, formerly Collingwood nee Bland, Dorothy Bowden formerly Collingwood nee Bland, Widow, late of Loughborough, Leicestershire, died there on 29 April 1997. [Estate about £6,000].

BUTLER, Donald Graham Butler, late of Hove, East Sussex died at Brighton, East Sussex on 4 November 1996. [Estate about £35,000].

CESTATE about £35,000).

CLARKE. Raymond Thomas Clarke otherwise Raymond Clarke, late of Brixton, London SW-, died at Lambeth London SEI on 25 April 1997. (Estate about £10,000).

DEAMER, John Thomas Sherwood Deamer, late of Management of the Control of the Con

Northampton, Northamptonshire, died there on 21 November 1997, (Estate about £5.500). FOSTER, Frederick Foster, otherwise Frederick Thomas Foster, late of Southsea, Hampshire, died at Gosport, Hampshire on 13 July 1998. (Estate about £20,500). OSBORNE, Edgar Rouald Osborne, late of Walsall, West Midlands, died there on 7 January 1998. (Estate about £15,600).

REPSE, Juris Repse, late of Westminster, London SWL died there on 10 June 1992. (Estate about £5,000), STORK, Samuel Stork, late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, died there on 17 February 1988. (Estate about £200,000). SZAFRAN, Bronislaw Szafran, otherwise Bruno Szafran, late of Ilford, Essex, died there on 22 September 1990

Estate about £80,000). TEMBLETT, Evelyn Temblett, Spinster, late of Bristol, Avon, died there on 29 June 1998. (Estate about £10.000). WILLIAMS, Thomas Williams, late of Sherburn Hill, Durham, died there on 18 October 1998. (Estate about £85,000).

The Widow/Widower and Kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Brondway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer

The Implyency Act 1986 HOUSE OF JEMMA LIMITED (in Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Deminison FRPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chartenbuses Square, London, ECIM 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the creditors on 11th December 1998.

M.R. DOBRINGTON, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986 PENTACTIVE LIMITED (in Liquidation)

M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF ROLLS-ROYCE & PARTNERS FINANCE LIMITED - and -IN THE MATTER OF THE

No. 006755 of 1998

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NOTICE IS HERRERY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Dresson) dued 10 December 1998 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from USS 200,000,000 to USS-44,875,610 and the Minute approved by the High Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registray of Companies in 17 December 1998. COMPANIES ACT 1985

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He's a star, and he's no dummy

The man who makes the shoppers stop and stare on New York's Fifth Avenue started out on the other side of the glass - with his nose pressed up against the windows of John Lewis. There's fame in store for Simon Doonan, says Tamsin Blanchard



Above, one of Simon Doonan's window displays for Barneys, Christmas 1998. Below, Doonan, currently appearing behind plate glass and soon to be immortalised on film in 'Confessions of a Window Dresser'

Hollywood movie about a window dresser? Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous? Well, Confessions of a Window Dresser, based on the life of one of fashion's campest and most influential figures, may break box office records after all. (Warren Beatty did it for hairdressers in Shampoo.) And Simon Doonan, the window dresser in question, is no ordinary display person. At the November launch of his book, Confessions of a Window Dresser, to be published here next year, Doonan, he 47-year-old British ex-pat and Preative director of New York's chic store, Barneys, was mobbed. All New York was there, including an Yves Saint Laurent lookalike. If Yves could have been there in person, no doubt he would have been.

and everyone knows him. Even those who don't know him know of his windows. And Christmas is the time when his creative juices overflow on to the sidewalks of Madison Avenue. New Yorkers make a point of going to Barneys to see the Christmas windows, just as Doonan himself used to stand and gawp at the displays at his local John Lewis

in Reading as a boy. While those windows usually involved lengths of gold lamé and velvet, draped artfully around a mannequin, Doonan's efforts are an altogether more splendid affair. put Magic Johnson alongside a Christmas tree dripping with golden condoms ("it was all very tasteful," says Doonan; he dressed Madonna as the Virgin Mary and

Simon Doonan knows everyone, in bondage. He makes a point of creating secular windows every year, and at a time when American sentimentality is in overdrive, Doonan's windows are as dark and spooky as a Tim Burton Hallowe'en. He has a penchant for coffins in his displays - he says they guarantee interest. As you might expect, he brushes off the odd complaint (and

a few death threats) without a care. Iain R Webb, fashion director of British Elle, is a fan. "He's one of those people who doesn't mind taking risks," says Webb. "It's his British eccentricity that the Americans adore, because they haven't He caused controversy when he got that themselves. He's much more about selling an idea than selling a product. He understands the power of iconography."

Doonan also has his finger on the pulse: his windows are invariably Margaret Thatcher as a dominatrix predictions of trends to come. This



Christmas, he has gone for scenes of debauchery and decadence with a hallucinogenic 1930s Cabaret theme - light fixtures made of bair, an 8ft-tall saxophone of papier màché being played by a naked, marabou feather-draped Nadja Auermann mannequin, oversized Martini glasses and olives, lampshades made of tick-tacks, and a beaded curtain made of Reese's glam-rocker in glitter and jumble-

peanut butter cups. "The windows reflect the slightly decadent tinge New York has," says Doonan, in his more-English-than-the-Queen's-English drawl. He is after all, the Oscar Wilde of window dressing.

"My updated Cabaret compares the New York of the Nineties with the Berlin of the Thirties. The self-indulgence and glamour of New York is all there." His windows break all the rules. "I like to include lots of detritus and dirt," he says. If he could get away with it, he'd quite like to have no clothes at all in the windows.

Strangely enough, Simon Doonan, who is known affectionately as "Mummy" to those who work for him, began his rise to fashion fabulousness working at Heelas of Reading, his local branch of John Lewis. In the early Seventies, he escaped to London to reinvent himself as a

sale finds. He found a job working at Yves Saint Laurent for £18 a week moved on to the windows at Aquascutum and ended up at Tommy Nutter in Savile Row, where he quickly found his forté for making windows that would stop people in their tracks. "I did rats with rhinestones," says Doonan. "The more theatrical and nutty, the better."

His nutty ideas soon landed him a job in LA, and in 1976 he went to work for the designer store Maxfield. From there, he found himself in New York's Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute, working as display designer with the mother of all fashion legends, Diana Vreeland.

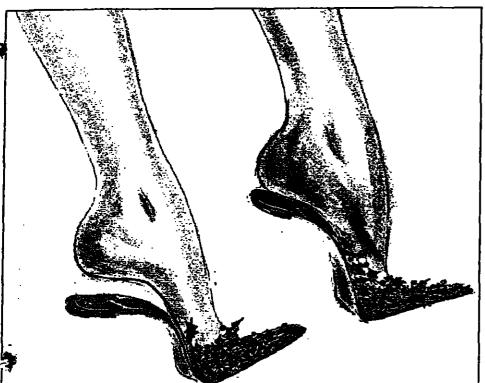
In the 1986. Doonan was offered the plum job: window dresser at Barneys. Since then, he has risen to creative director and a six-figure salary (rumoured to be more than half a million dollars) and is as much an

institution as the store itself. His first Christmas windows portraved a deserted, decaying palace with mice scurrying amid the merchandise. In 1994, he portrayed the Baby Jesus using a Japanese Hello Kitty doll. The public was not amused and the window was withdrawn. Since then, he has avoided religious themes.

At times, Doonan displays a Monty Python-style humour that is peculiarly British, and that most New Yorkers are not quite tuned in to. Movie-goers, however, will find his sense of fun and irony as entertaining as his windows.

Hollywood is said to be fighting over the rights to Doonan's book, with Rupert Everett (who else?) tipped for the starring role. "You'd have to saw off his legs first," says Iain R Webb (Doonan is an elfin 5ft 5in). But Simon Doonan has enough

It's time to come to the aid of the party frock



Jeeves of Belgravia will re-sole your Manolo Blahnik shoes

WHITE IS this year's chic winter shade, and luxury fabrics are key, but who can you trust when it comes to laundering that £800 Ralph Lauren silk shirt to ensure it keeps its celestial brightness? Or, come to that, repair your beloved handbag, mend those adored strappy sandals or make sure your soft leather jacket doesn't return from the cleaners look-

ing like a prune? When you're giving someone your favourite, not to mention most expensive, items of clothing you want to know they'll be treated with respect," explained Peter Sidell of The Library. "That's why for the past 10 years I've used the Howard Stone Valet Services. I know I can give Howard an expensive suit or a prized cashmere sweater, and it will come

back looking as good as new." "If something comes to us Manolo Blahnik and we're not sure about it,"

says Howard Stone, "our philosophy is not to clean it before we've spoken to the customer. Saying that, we rarely turn anything away. We're experienced in cleaning everything from hand-beaded dresses by Gucci to ties from Marks & Spencer, so we're not afraid of the odd stain,"

Another complete valet service is offered by Jeeves of Belgravia. "We clean and repai virtually any fashion item. We'll also make sure your Manolo Blahniks are resoled to exactly match the shoe, or re-fashion a heel to bring it a little more up to date. We can also repair the linings, clasps and zips on most handbags."

Rejuvenation needn't cost the earth. Jeeves will completely clean and attend to minor repairs on a bespoke suit for under £20. If you really want to ensure your favourite items retain their good looks,

Jeeves and Stone offer a few invaluable tips. Remember to brush overcoats - it keeps the pile up and removes damaging surface dirt. Help shoes keep their shape by stuffing them with tissue paper; polish leather regularly or it will lose its moisture and crack; try not to wear the same pair of shoes

You've spent a small fortune on a pair of must-have spindly sandals and a fabulous beaded cocktail dress – so why be a Scrooge when it comes to caring for them? By Sojourner Jones

> time to dry naturally. Always cover your favourite items with cloth bags, not plastic - that way they can breathe. And of course, never put anything away for the winter without giving it a good clean. If there is one thing moths love more than a woollen sweater, it's a dirty woollen sweater.

every day, as the inside needs

Howard Stone Valet Services A full and comprehensive dry cleaning and repair service. Can also see to heels that have fallen off and re-stitch bags. Free delivery and collection from most areas of London. (01843 833347 for full details.)

Jeeves of Beigravia Full dry-cleaning service including suede, leather and household linen, also minor and extensive alterations as well as repairs to all fashion accessories (0181-909 3232). Free delivery and collection in Lon-

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Where angels fear to tread

The Royal Opera and Ballet companies at last have a properly qualified and experienced Executive Director. Can Michael Kaiser turn the tide? By David Lister

can explain to me the rules of cricket." It's easy. A man comes out just after his predecessor has been ignominiously given little to have a smile playing on his round, choice but to walk. His strengths and weaknesses are then exposed for all to see. And people on all sides are trying to force him out too. It's just like running the Royal Opera House.

But then Michael Kaiser has already experienced the vicissitudes of Covent Garden. As he arrives, the Royal Ballet threatens to jump ship. A month later his grant is increased from £14m to £20m by the Arts Council.

It has been rumoured abroad that the new executive director, a former management consultant, is a tough operator. Indeed, the Chicago Tribune called him "the turnaround king". Turnaround involves going into ailing companies, identifying problems and swiftly rectifying morale, balance sheets and reputation. He did this at New York's American Ballet Theatre, among other arts companies, after working at IBM and General Motors. Unexpectedly, however, he's no gum-chewing, no-nonsense. Wall Street whiz-kid.

Yes, the 45-year-old, softly-spoken troubleshooter had plenty to say about turnaround, Covent Gardenstyle. Yes, he had a tried and trusted formula for delivering the goods the Arts Council bad demanded when they had given the ROH a massive grant uplift the day before I met him. But he also talked, a little coyly, about how he was a trained opera singer (a baritone), loved choral music and wanted to bring more to Covent Garden), and had golden memories of taking part in Berlioz's Requiem under Sir Colin Davis with the Boston Philharmonic at Tanglewood. He even tried the fiddle but was just awful". He had to - his grandfather played violin in the New York Philharmonic for 40 years.

do miss my spectator days was Sir Despard in Ruddigore, studio theatre be open to the sports," says the new man in a fact he wisely kept hidden until

> much for headline writers to resist. The increase means he can afford to be expansive. He can even afford owlish face, as he sits in his Floral Street office opposite the House. That makes him the first director to be seen smiling since, well, at least three directors ago. So can we take it that all the problems that have entertained and disgusted politicians and public alike are now over? "Yes. it's a great day for us. The problems are solved with the grant. It allows us to focus on the future."

So we will never again hear the

'The problem at the ROH wasn't a lack of cash. It was people looking at the past and not the future'

perennial cry that you are underfunded? "You will never hear it from me." He even goes on to say that the ROH's problem "was not a short term lack of cash at all". This man knows what a cash shortage really means. "At American Ballet Theatre, we literally had to turn off every other light bulb. We ran out of pointe shoes. That's not been the firm sponsor and put its mascot case here. I do turnarounds for a liv- moose into the third act of ing, and one of the common traits is Nutcracker. That's the wrong way. that people are looking backwards, At ABT we had Ernst and Young pointing fingers, blaming each other, and not looking to the future.

"What's needed here is a turnaround in people's expectations of the institution. How do we rebuild the trust of the public, the government and the donors? I'm working on the answers to all."

He has already achieved one short-term objective by persuading the music director, Bernard Haitink, But Michael Kaiser's passion is to stay. Kaiser, who likes as much art for Gilbert and Sullivan. His and as little administration as pos-

public (incredibly, chairman Sir sports," says the new man in charge in his Manhattan drawl. "I've learned the announced. Had it been known a it dark for lack of money). "Imagine," enthuses Kaiser, "the lecture demonstrations we can have... free

lunchtime concerts once a week...' Kaiser disagrees with Richard Evre's report which said that access was a cost of subsidy. "It's not a cost. It's my mission. I want people to come to opera and ballet. I want more children to come." He is committed to reducing seat prices. He will also bring in better PR - "a much more pro-active press policy" turning dialogue "away from blame to what's going to happen in the future... for example, we're building this wonderful new facility but there has been so much fear that people had stopped dreaming about this new facility. I walk around the building talking about programming. You read about bad management and bad staff here. The truth is people were working extremely hard, but each department was working on its own. You start by bringing people into a room together and letting them talk. And I'm linking marketing and fundraising together. You fundraise after a marketing blitz. I pioneered that in America."

Corporate donors and individuals. he stresses, need to see they will get something for their money. "We have to recognise that." He is, however, quick to reassure British sensibilities on the matter. "One American ballet company had a toy sponsoring our website. When you logged on you could also click on to Ernst & Young and find out more about them. That's a good example."

In the case of individuals, he has ideas such as the artistic director giving lectures previewing forthcoming seasons. "The ROH has 15,000 Friends, all giving £45 a year Now, some could give more and get other privileges in return, but they have not been asked, and we haven't created what we call in America 'a



Will we again hear that the house is underfunded? Michael Kaiser: 'You will never hear it from me'

chairman said not once but twice at a press conference earlier this year that the house would be "artist-led": an artistic director would be in charge. Will Kaiser soon be playing second fiddle?

No. An artistic director will be appointed but we will be dead equal." But Sir Colin did say originally... "We will be dead equal," Kaiser interjects politely, but firmly.

Talking of ladders, the ROH of the candidates who was approached, Sarah Billinghurst of New York's Metropolitan Opera, refused to come under a "dead equal" set-up. Kaiser says, chivalrously, that she is "a wonderful person and very knowledgeable", then adds a little less chivalrously. "but I doubt if there were 10 people in London who had heard of her be-

And whoever is in charge will still "It will be shared, if you will." One have a Royal Ballet company.

fore this all came up".

Kaiser is again polite, but a wee bit alone, and that the hardest thing devastating when confirming that there were moves by the company to go it alone, away from Covent Garden. After praising the dancers, very unhappy. They had a notion Middlemarch for the first time, I'm that they could form their own company. It was a naive notion. companies aren't performing. "I They were only looking at their own attend virtually every performance," salaries. They forgot that there he says. "It's important that the

Kaiser has said that he lives course, it's a joy for me."

about leaving New York was having to leave his dog behind. In his spare moments, he has his head in the English classics. He is re-reading he adds: "The ballet dancers were Pride and Prejudice and reading ashamed to say". But only when the were other overheads to consider." artists see me around - and, of

favourite role in his amateur singing sible, has also insisted that the new ladder of giving." IRGIN FESTIVE BRIBE SHOCKER! **MEGASTORES**

Spellbound at the frontier

THE SET-UP on the stage is part Mission Control, part Heath Robinson. High-tech work stations full of futuristic gizmos loom over what look like random collections of junk salvaged from a skip, and the Dexion shelving for the percussionist Paul Lytton's DIY rack of things to beat, shake, rattle and roll, has an egg whisk sticking out of the side. There's no kitchen sink-just everything but. In one of Barry Guy's extraordinarily kinetic double-bass solos, a cooking pan lid is slid between the strings for textural effect. And in free improvisation - a form of music in which Lytton. Guy, the violinist Philipp Wachsmann and the saxophonist Evan Parker are world leaders - tex-

ture is almost all. Since the movement began in the Sixties, inspired by both free jazz and the experiments of the contemporary classical avant garde, free improvisers have been burrowing about in the innards of their instruments, or employing them in

unusual ways, in order to bring

JAZZ EVAN PARKER **ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC** ENSEMBLE ARNOLFINI BRISTOL

forth fresh sounds. The use of various types of electronic gadgetry to further distress and extend the sonic range has also been going since the beginning of the movement. But now they really have the technology to do it properly. This, the last date of a short UK tour by this ensemble, was the proof of the pudding.

While the four conventional instruments play, either solo or together their contributions are simultaneously reconfigured by the real-time tweaking of three electronic sound processors (the Mission Control men; Walter Prati, Marco Vecchi and Lawrence Casserley, with Wachsmann switching between the two roles). The sound is mixed for an all-round speaker



Evan Parker: shifting patterns David Sinclair

system and the results are amazingly impressive, with the electronic effects both echoing the original instruments and interpolating their own babble of squelches and squeaks. It's also a strangely retro.

futurist sound-world: part musique concrete, part Radiophonic Workshop effects for Dr Who. It could even be described as part state-of-theart post-ambient grunge.

The programme for the separate pieces, which were all at

least partially "composed", was also arranged with great care so that not all the Ensemble's eggs were put into the one basket, and each number introduced another member of the group until, by the end, they were all involved.

Although everything was interesting, the highlights were Guy's first bass solo (the pan lid one), which was almost indescribably rich and diverting, and the relatively late entry of Parker himself. Parker's soprano saxophone technique, which, through circular breathing, manages to create constantly shifting patterns that at times recall muezzins at prayer, or the exotic wheedling of North African pan-pipes, was, with the addition of the electronic effects, almost literally spell-binding.

At the end, after an hour and a half, you had had enough, but the evening provided a complete vindication of this often abused music's power and contemporary relevance.

PHIL JOHNSON

The century, by numbers

KATHRYN STOTT must have had fun planning her 40th-birthday piano recital at the Wigmore Hall on Saturday. She chose a piece, or group of pieces, to represent each decade of the century, beginning with Ravel and ending

with Graham Fitkin. Stott is one of the busiest pianists around, both as a soloist and chamber musician - she gave two Wigmore recitals with colleagues earlier this month and has recently formed a Tango trio called Tango Tiempo. Far from making Saturday evening into a fussy gala, she just got on with the job, dressed for comfort in trousers and a plain sleeveless

top, and played from music. Which created no barrier nor feeling that she was underprepared, as her firm yet melting projection of Ravel's Jeux d'eau immediately made clear.

CLASSICAL KATHRYN STOTT WIGMORE HALL LONDON

She was equally fluent in Faure's 12th Nocturne, whose disquieting harmonies and unexpected continuity unfolded without strain; warmly natural.

The Twenties were represented by Gershwin's three Preludes, and the Thirties by Rachmaninov's Variations on a Theme of Corelli, his last solo piano work, which was expertly

shaped by Stott. So far, all the composers were ones with whom she has become particularly identified. She has a certain objectivity and a strong rhythmic impulse, both of which suit music marrying the popular with a sense

Brasileiras No.4, by Villa-Lobos, which moulds Brazilian folklore in Baroque forms.

You might just suspect Shostakovich of doing something similar in the last of his 24 Preludes and Fugues of 1951, because it sounds as if an attempt to remember the tune of "On Ilkley Moor" gets lost in dour academic counterpoint.

The Sixties and Seventies also seemed years of austerity, in this programme, though Stott was as gentle and considerate as she could be with Peter Maxwell Davies' Five Little Pieces. After these post-Webern miniatures. Aaron Copland's Night Thoughts, written for the 1973 Van Cliburn Piano Competition, seemed even more dyspeptic until its final velvety chords unrolled in some of history. Taking slight chrono- sort of gesture of conciliation. logical licence, her choice for As Copland's last piano work.

the Forties was Bachianas it seems strangely negative.

Its lack of rhythmic interest was made good with Astor Piazzolla's Three Preludes, though the first rambles freely, like an introduction to the others. In these, as in so much of what he did, Piazzolla had problems with endings. Endings in music which don't conceal their origins in improvisation tend to be arbitrary anyway.

But Graham Fitkin's Relent (as in "relentless", I assume) was obviously pitched at an effective conclusion. Essentially, it's a toccata, and a showpiece for Stott's strong technique. I liked a passage with the right hand vigorously pounding across the left, and the opening was striking. The composer's programme note talked about time, and marking time, but doing it sometimes made for less than gripping listening.

ADRIAN JACK

Cheap insurance for a previous generation, 'penny policies' have matured well - but few people realise it. By Teresa Hunter

Pennies that can add up to pounds

sands of "penny" insurance policies may have to be recalculated after an investigation by The Independent which shows that policyholders are receiving incorrect sur-

Up to 40 million "penny policies", some dating back more than 100 years, are lying forgotten in Britain's homes, their owners unaware of the substantial value they carry. Due to a computer software problem, one company, Liverpool Victoria, is reassessing its payouts.

"Penny policies" were a type of insurance policy taken out to cover a person's funeral costs, and they

were extremely popular until the Six-ties. Valuing them, though, is not easy. Although they were basic life assurance contracts, payable on death to cover funeral expenses, most companies added annual bonuses, even when they were not strictly "with-profits" policies.

One policyholder, Duncan Martin, from Bristol, saw the value of his 58year-old penny policy, bought by his mother from the Liverpool Victoria on his birth, treble in two vears. Mr Martin says: "I knew that these values couldn't be right. My main concern was how many other people were receiving strange quotations, but were doing nothing

ond contract was valued at £75. He took the money from the Pru, but kept the others going. When he inquired again recently about the Liverpool Victoria policies, the value of the first had all but trebled to £146, while the second had grown to £184.

pennies more when he was 10.

In 1996, Mr Martin decided to sur-

toria policy, taken out at the same

time for admittedly half the premi-

um, was worth only £55 and the sec-

"I was baffled," Mr Martin says. "How can policies taken out at the same time produce such widely diverse sums? And how can their value treble in such a short time?"

The Liverpool Victoria says the problem arose from a computer problem. Ian Blanchard, the company's group actuary, says he will take immediate action once the IT firm that provides the computer software has reported back on the nature and scale of the problem.

He says: "Right now, we do not know whether these are isolated blips affecting only particular kinds of policies, like the penny policies. or whether the problem is more widespread. Potentially large numbers of quotations could be hit. We will write to policyholders if necessary and re-calculate values where appropriate. Mr Martin received



'Penny' insurance policies were originally taken out to enable people to pay for their funerals

too much and we won't be asking in 1893, insuring the life of a woman him for the money back, However, it's possible others may have received too little."

The Financial Services Authority, the new financial watchdog, says it would be concerned if any company were found to be issuing false quotes, whether too high or too low.

A spokesman says: "Companies are obliged by conduct of business rules to supply quotations which are accurate. You can't have companies paying out the wrong amounts to their policyholders."

"Penny policies" are part of the history of British insurance, but many millions could still be paid out. The Prudential is trying to trace 625.000 owners of contracts worth £34m which have matured. The Pru believes thousands more payouts have gone unclaimed on deaths. because younger generations think these penny policies are worthless.

who died 30 years ago. The sum assured was only one pound and 15 old shillings, but with bonuses the beneficiaries will receive much more. The policy came to light when her granddaughter was sifting through some old papers of her mother's, the policyholder's daughter, who had

"Because the premium was so tiny, they often think they are worthless, when there can be quite significant values attached to them."

But the premiums were not small in the days when they were paid. Pru marketing manager, Norman Turner, says: "If you had a dozen children, it could be a real struggle to pay

The Prudential is trying to trace 625,000 owners of penny policy contracts worth £34m

herself died in 1991, unaware the contracts were valuable. A Pearl spokesman says: "This is

typical of many claims we receive today. Young people find these ancient-looking policy documents when their parents or grandparents Recently, Pearl, another insurer, die and they don't know what they received a claim on a policy begun are, or what they could be worth.

these weekly premiums out of a wage of a couple of pounds a week. But the coins were taken out of the wage packet and put on the top of the mantelpiece, ready for when the collector called.

These were not insignificant investments at the time, but it is the addition of compound interest which

has had such an astronomic impact on their returns. If you add interest to interest over 40, 50, 60 years or more, these policies' value can soar."

Last month, the Pearl paid out nearly £700 on two policies taken out in 1896, following the death of a 104year-old policyholder.

But thousands more go unpaid. The problems of keeping track were exacerbated when most of the insurers stopped collecting premiums, and contact with their policyholder was lost, especially if they moved house or were taken ill.

Door-to-door collection was the keystone to the success of these early insurance companies. Liverpool Victoria still collects its premiums, no matter how small, but the Pearl no longer offers a door-to-door service for premiums under £5. The company makes the payments then deducts them from any final maturity value, without adding interest. The Pru no longer collects premiums on policies over 40 years old.

Keep a list of all your

Policy pitfalls to avoid

insurance policies (such as the Prudential policy pictured here) and their value and let your family know where they are. • If you find some old strangelooking documents, always contact the company and ask for a valuation – no matter how unlikely that looks. You might be pleasantly surprised. If the valuation seems wrong, query it with the company. Ask for a detailed explanation of how it was calculated. Always keep paying premiums no matter how small.

Failure to do so terminates the

contract, and its value will be

sharply eroded.



The poor feared dissection

ONE OF the most socially div- sales of penny policies soaring. isive pieces of legislation ever to enter the statute book led to an explosion of sales of penny insurance polices in the second

ian England sent death rates soaring. One in five babies died the turn of the century life ex- to be sacrificed for science pectancy in London was just 21.

But it was fear of dissection rather than of death which sent

Before the 1832 Anatomy Act, hospitals were allowed only eight bodies a year for medical experimentation. A lucrative trade in body-snatching developed. The Anatomy trade by giving hospitals access to as many bodies as necessary before its first birthday, and at for their work. But the corpses

> were the ones which no one could afford to bury. To religious people, this

while labourers earned barely £1 a week in the late 19th century, the minimum cost of the cheapest funeral was £6. A man with 10 or 12 children could expect four out of five of them to die during childhood, yet he had no means of burying them. As late as 1938 in London, one in nine people to die received a pauper's funeral.

companies Insurance sprang up to meet this need. Liverpool Victoria was estab-

meant eternal damnation. But lished in 1842 to "afford the poorer classes the means of providing themselves and their children a decent interment for a half-penny, a penny or three pence a week". The Pearl and Prudential quickly followed.

Insurers were not entirely motivated by profit. If someone stopped paying premiums because they had entered the workhouse, then the company paid for them and they were guaranteed a decent funeral.

______ bf of the last century.

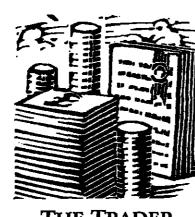
Mass migration to the disease-ridden cities of Victor- Act sought to put an end to this

I wouldn't recommend mango with the sprouts

CHESTNUTS ROASTING on an open fire, Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas" on the gramophone, smiling friends and family coming round to wish us good cheer - no, our Christmases aren't like that either. Perhaps you can only have them like that in black and white. Anyway, this year I can guarantee it'll be more like a Bruce Willis film, with snipers and shouting and the occasional explosion. The reason? We're spending the weekend with Uncle Edward and Aunt Julia.

Uncle Edward is my father's big brother, who took early retirement from a small firm of solicitors about two years ago and has been driving everyone insane ever since. He still believes there's such a thing as a "steady job", for heaven's sake, and will no doubt lecture me on the subject over the festive spell, shortly before I decide to go for a very long stomp across the fields.

But Uncle E isn't the real problem; Aunt J is. To her, Christmas is a oncea-year chance to show off to the rest of us. Unlike my mother - who decided long ago that if God had meant her to spend her life in the kitchen He wouldn't have given us microwave ovens and chilled ready meals – Aunt J does everything herself. That means she'll have made the stuffing, the pastry and the filling for the mince pies, the pudding and all of the cake. She'll have agonised over which bird to have, which type of



THE TRADER

smoked salmon, which vegetables. In short, she'll have worn herself to a frazzle, but in a very smug way.

As my father says, it wouldn't be so bad if she could actually cook. To be fair, what he means is that she tries too hard, so everything would be perfect if it weren't for that one extra ingredient: cherries in the mincemeat; lemon vodka in the pork and chestnut stuffing; and, one unforgettable year, mango with the Brussels sprouts. It means you can never quite relax and think, "Oooh

yummy, roast potatoes." Of course, it's always a bit of a struggle to get hold of your plate of booby-trapped food in the first place, as Aunt J has no intention of handing it over until you've realised in detail

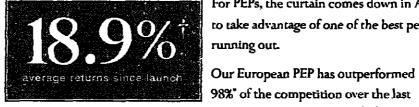
exactly how much work went into the preparation. "I always find that the best thing..." starts up Aunt J, and I switch off. My mother's eyes glaze over as if she's calculating how soon she can claim to have a migraine, though if Aunt J carries on like this

she'll have one for real soon enough. "I expect you're used to lots of fancy restaurants in London," Aunt J always continues. "But I always think there's nothing quite like home cooking." I look at the plateful in front of me and realise that she's right about this, at least.

As you can imagine, all this lessthan-gleeful anticipation of Christmas Day has rather dented my festive spirit. Not that it wasn't fragile to begin with. There was the horror of waking up after the team lunch with a man's watch on the bedside table, and it was only when my boyfriend Olivier rang to say he'd lost his that I calmed down. All the same, I still can't remember anything of the ride home except that Jaap climbed into the taxi after me – and people get up to all sorts of things in taxis. I can't exactly

ask him about it, either. And then we're sitting around the office when Rory asks Jaap why he's not wearing his new watch, and Jaap says he can't find it anywhere. "I was wearing it at the team lunch, but after that I can't remember having it." My heart stops. Olivier has lost his watch and so has Jaap. So the one on my bedside table - whose is it?

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I WORK FOR ...

AMANDA ROBINSON WORKS FOR ROBERT CREIGHTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

happily working at Great Ormond Street who would run a mile from a normal hospital. I think one reason why no one finds this place sombre is because the place is brightly coloured and full of the sounds of children, and we also deliberately avoid giving the place that hospital smell by using a special type of disinfectant. But above all Great Ormond Street has a special, uplifting feeling to it which comes from knowing that the patients, many of whom are seriously ill, are receiving some of the best treatment they could possibly get. When I worked in the commercial sector I got very little sense of achievement from my job, but once here I realised that I wanted to stay and climb up the ladder, because I felt that my work was contributing to the care of children. Christmas is our busiest time, but

when the work gets too much I pop round to reception to see what's going on. Everything slides back into perspective when you see the children's faces light up with excitement at the sight of Father Christmas and two double-decker buses arriving to take them to see the Christmas lights. From my office I've also been able to see the kids dashing in and out of the boardroom where each ward holds its Christmas party, and there's plenty to get involved in at this time of year. We've already had the Christmas play given by the pupils of the hospital's school, and a carol service with mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine in our

A lot of the children will go home of children, Robert is perfectly suitfor Christmas, but for those who have to stay in hospital we make sure that they have the best time they possibly can, by fitting their party around them. I've only recently



'Robert spends every Christmas Day here with his wife and children'

realised that Robert, my boss, spends every Christmas Day here must be the worst kind of suffering. with his wife and two 10-year-old All our work is for the benefit of patwin daughters - working here retient care, but it's not until you ally helps you to realise what Christspeak to the parents that you get an mas should be about. idea of how it feels to be at the re-With his jolly disposition and love ceiving end of the services we provide. As a result, the contact I have

ed to his job. He is very keen that the with the parents is one of the things patients' parents should be able to I most appreciate about my job. bring any worries or concerns they I also spend a lot of my day arhave direct to him, so he can look into ranging programmes for interthe matter himself. Knowing the pain national visitors who come to us for example, I always notify the editor

that your own child is going through advice, and liaising with those who support and donate money to the hospital. But for the most part I work on keeping Robert in order, which I enjoy because he's calm, unflappable and easy to control. I'm highly organised myself and I find that it is much easier to sort things out if you don't panic. I was put on to our newsletter committee because I am in touch with all the departments and therefore know what's going on. For

about any imminent VIP visit since we often have pop stars coming in to see the children.

The other day I accidentally knocked into one of Boyzone, when they came to open our haemophilia unit, which was rather embarrassing. But many personalities come on low-profile visits, as Diana, Princess of Wales often used to. Knowing that someone is visiting out of the good of their own head rather than for press attention makes you respect him or her all the more.

Charities also regularly send us puppet shows and clowns to make the kids laugh and we recently started inviting animals on to the wards, including a little leopard cub, because they were recognised as really good therapy for kids.

Since I know most of the staff through working in the Chief Executive's office, I have been invited to all the different departments' Christmas parties, most of which are on the same night. Robert will pop along to each of them, too, but I know that he will only stay for one drink because he's aware that while he's there everyone will be on their best behaviour and will hold back - he's really quite understanding in that respect. He also made sure to send a message to all his staff, via his usual column in the newsletter, to remind them to have a really good break this Christmas. I think that everyone spends so much time at the office that the nature of both the boss and the workplace tends to affect the whole of your life, so it's a real bonus to be able to enjoy work as much as I do. I try not to go on about the hospital when I'm with my friends, but if they are interested I will always tell them of the latest fundraising film première or concert, and mention that we always need people on hand to shake collection tins.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

American law firm seeks LEGAL OFFICE MANAGER

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Faking it...

IVE TRIED to blend in, in a little black dress and discreet jewellery. but it's hard in Hennes and diamanté when everyone else is in Hermes and discreet touches of real gold.

I don't really know what I'm doing here - no one has ever asked me to come to their Christmas party before, and it's not as if this is the first one I've organised. I've done a good job, if I say it myself. It's been fun having a budget of £200 a head - more than £30,000 to squander on a single party - though having only a week to arrange it was some headache.

But my unemployed artist mates have done wonders: Malachi's cardboard and gold spray-paint, and Rowena and Max's canvases of gondolas, bridges and naked statuary look fantastic, though I hope no one touches them with their Gucci dress. Furthermore, what with all the drink merchants sending me bottles of claret, bottles of Scotch and bottles of vodka in order to suck up, we've a houseful of cocktails for New Year, and enough test canapés in the freezer to feed everyone, as well.

Now, though proud, I'm bored. I don't know anyone. I keep trying to strike up conversations, with little success. I know why. These people introduce themselves with a CV: "Hello, I'm John Marshall of Crédit Suisse; just left Citibank." So the moment they cross-examine me, their eyes glaze. They say "The temp? Oh. How..." and drift away.

Sod this for a game of soldiers, I think, and tell the next person that I'm the designer who's doing out the offices next year: that I threw in this party as a freebie. He cheers up. "At last," he says, "someone who can talk about something other than the size of their bonus. I always wanted to be an artist myself. But you've got to live, haven't you? And I defy you to find anyone who can survive on less than £100,000 a year." "Oh, absolutely," I say enthusiastically. "You can't throw a decent party for less than twenty." "Or have a proper holiday. Do you know how much it cost when we went to an Aman resort?" "Funny you should mention them. I've just been doing one of their hotels in Borneo," I say. "Really? Borneo,



THE TEMP

eh? Headhunters. Must be hard to get the staff." "No," I reply, "I just flew in a couple of dozen people from America." "Really? Hey, Jerry." he cries, "Come and meet..." "Amanda," I fill him in "Amanda. Brilliant designer. Doing these people's offices next year." Jerry lurches over. "Thought you looked a bit arty for this crowd," he says. "Love the jewels. Very ironic." "Paste is the coming thing," I assure him. "Really? Must tell Susan. She'll be furious."

I'm surrounded by drunken men, regaling them with my stays at Arab villas in St Tropez and the difficulty of getting a Hollywood star to accept anything without frills. "You know what they say," I tell them. "You can take the girl out of the trailer park, but you can't take the trailer park out of the girl." They laugh.

Sixteen glasses of champagne in, I'm having a high old time. Someone called Rolly suggests we get some caviare. Now, this is really living. We weave through the heaving Camillas, Rolly's hand firmly under my elbow. "Tell you what," he says into my ear, "How about we get out of here and try our chances at Titanic? You can tell me how to find someone to do a trompe-l'oeil in my bathroom." Then we stop in front of Obsessive Graham.

"Graham old man!" he cries, as I try to wilt into the background. "Meet Amanda! Lovely girl! Designer. Doing your offices out next year." Graham pauses, and for a moment I think he's going to cut me some Christmas slack. Not a chance. "No she isn't," he says, as Rolly's face drops, "She's our temp secre-tary. And she's leaving tomorrow."

TEL: 0171 293 2222

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university graduate

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- client-base being a considerable advantage.
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A detailed CV and covering letter should be addressed to our consultant, Mrs D. Bailey at GMBM Response Management Services. Landseer House, 19 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0ES.



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Operational Control Project Accountant

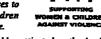
A leading global corporate and investment bank is seeking to recruit a new Operational Control Project Accountant. The ideal candidate would be a CIMA qualified accountant and be able to demonstrate strong financial service operational experience with a practical knowledge of London E14 7DL.

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activity based costing systems.

Please send your CV and details of your current compensation package to: P.O. Box No. 12942. Independent Newspapers Plc. 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf,

temporary accommodation and raige of direct support services to



We are seeking to recruit highly ma

CHILDCARE PROJECT OFFICER

(Ref: CPO) Full-time (NO6 £16,233)

Your role will involve developing childcare provision and initiatives, and the day-to-day renaing of full daycare

You will need:

NNEB or equivalent qualification

Four years post qualifying experience with 0-8yr olds. Empathy and understanding of the concerns and problems facing Asian children and families.

This post is funded through the Single Regeneration Budget initially for two years.





REFUGE PROJECT OFFICER (Ref: RPO)

Full-time (RM1W £15,264-£19,185, night call-out rate £9.00ph)

This is a new project, based in Leicester, for women aged between 16-25vts. You will be required to manage the 24 hour running of our refuge.

- At least 2 years management experience.
- At least 3 years experience working with women and children in a carring enabling capacity.
- A thorough knowledge of domestic violence as it affects young women within the Asian communi Highly developed leadership, organisational and
- ication skills. A relevant qualification i.e. Degree in Social Work/Social Care, CQSW, DipSW or equivalents.
- Flexibility as 10% of working time will be at weak and required to be on call during the night.

PROJECT SUPPORT WORKERS-LEICESTER BASED (Ref: PSW/Night - PSW/Day)

3 part-time posts 19.5 hours Grade RW1 £13,086 pro-rata (£2,340 weighting for night support posts.)

Two Support Workers are required to work part of the week and overnight (3 nights per week) and one Support Worker during the day You will need to have:

- The capacity to offer a range of emotional and practical support, with an empathic and sensitive approa
- The ability to traine with a range of agencies such as social services, housing benefit agency, courts, police, schools and alcohol, drugs and mental health services.
- At least one years experience of working with Asian women, children and young girls either in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Ability to speak an Asian language is essential for all poets. Speakers of Gujarti and Bengali are particularly welcome due to under-representation. The above posts are exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 7(2)(d)(e) and the Race Relations Act 1976 5(2)(d). For application forms please call 01203 228952 and

Closing date for all posts is 11th January 1999.

Panahghar is Committed to Equality of Opportunity.

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MANAGER (ACT)

NEW FILMS

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) Director: Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells, Steve Hickner Voiced by: Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeitter

DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon Life of Moses "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way

of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on

the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Boker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)

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A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE BOYS (18)

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home. terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. The Boys spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff. West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, this Ireland-set saga is given backbone by Meryl Streep's regal performance. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Rio Cinema

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

Writer-director Dan Rosen must have had some terrible experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the Scream films, Dead Man's Curve delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: ABC Piccadilly

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss

Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Texty Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman carbonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends

stand-out being Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester

into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, with the one

Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haumarket

TT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

LUGGAGE (PG)

Air uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and llows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoeniz Cinema, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon n Azzanine. Warner Village West End

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West

Coast politics struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering set-pieces. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

5-85

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to tend a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobisty; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzonine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He seems to be a grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male heart-throbs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square. Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separatedat-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together.

West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic Dial M for Murder was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Punton Street, Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy, of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katherine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir

PLAYING GOD (18)

Cracker director Andy Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton. West End: Warner Village West End

RONIN (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and miss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (18) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Piccadilly, ABC Shaftesbury

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (18)

Once ridiculously held up as a video nasty, Tobe Hooper's thrift-shop chiller is, rather, a unholy celebration of the blood-lust urges within whitetrash America, ushering a bunch of generic teens to their doom among a family of unemployed slaughtermen. Explicit violence is thin on the ground; instead it's the alien, voodoo mood which dominates. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) The latest comedy from the tasteless writerdirector team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexeptionally bland cake. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Jonathan Rhys Myers plays is a Bowie-esque idol in glitter make-up; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of how these characters are bound together is told in a film brimming with intelligent ideas. West End: Curzon Soho. Rio Cinema

LA VIE REVEE DES ANGES (THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS) (18)

Isa (Elodie Bouchez) is a gamine but impoverished drifter who meets Marie (Natacha Reginer) while temping at a clothes sweatshop. They become friends and move in together in a stunning first feature for Erick Zonca. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15) Jude Law plays a contemporary vampire who wines and dines his victims before he goes for the jugular. West End: ABC Panion Street

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation and emotional sympathy driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

Hills (15) Tamara Jenkins' feature début is a modest but winning rites-of-passage movie about a family coping

with poverty in LA's

richest suburb. Alan

Arkin gives an acting

Slums of Beverly

masterclass as the dad. **Ronin** (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

it's a Wonderful Life (U, Curzon Soho) Despite its reputation as a national treasure. Frank Capra's hymn to smalltown selflessness is fraught with all kinds of contradictions and blind spots. James Stewart, granted a vision of how life would have been had he never been born, is magnificent in the lead role (above).

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Hindle Wakes

Royal Exchange, Manchester Spectacularly refurbished after the 1996 bombing, this theatre bounces back in fine resilient form with the excellent production which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boublil/Schonberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

The invention of Love Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Witty fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable beterosexua! friend. To 4.Apr

Copenhagen

Cottesioe, National Theatre Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn (above) - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jun

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Claude Lorrain British Museum

One hundred drawings by the great French classical landscape painter (bclow), including his remarkably vivid outdoor studies of woods and streams. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley

Abbott Hall, Kendal A small retrospective, spanning the career of top British abstractionist Riley - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame. to colour, stripes, diagonals and curves. To 31 Jan



Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallerv Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

The 1998 Turner Prize winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative. with swirls of dots, eyes. Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

<u>CINEMA</u> WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) Piccadiily
Circus The Last Days of Disco

1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm,

8.30pm A Perfect Murder

1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles

1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) Piccadilly Circus Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Victory .10pm, 6.10pm

square/Tottenham Court Road Slums of Beverty Hills 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm. 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) Deicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.55pm Rien Ne Va Plus 4.45pm. 9.15pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.25pm. 3.45pm, 6.05pm.

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.15pm, 6.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.05pm, 3.40pm Elizabeth 3.30pm, 8.55pm My Name Is Joe 6.25pm. 9.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm. 3.50pm. 6.50pm,

Barbican Screen (0171-638 8891) → Barbican The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ⊕ Sloane Square On Connaît la Chanson 1pm. 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) O Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Out of Sight 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) & Green Park

Dancing at Lughn 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) \(\text{Hyde Park}\)
Corner/Knightsbridge Left Comer/Knightsbridge Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm La Vie

des Anges 4.40pm. 8.40pm CURZON SOHO

O Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road The Eel (Unagi)
1.30pm, 6.45pm Henry Fool
4.10pm, 9pm It's a Wonderful
Life 1pm. 6.30pm The Last Days
of Disco 2.15pm, 9.30pm The
Philadelphila Story 12noon.
4.30pm, 7pm Velvet Goldmine
3.30pm, 9.15pm ELEPHANT AND CASTLE (0171-703 4968) & Elephant & Castle Babe: Pig in the City 1.50pm, 3.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour

6.20pm, 8.35pm 6.30pm, 8.45pm EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) © Leicester Square Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12,40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 10,45am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pp, 8.30pm Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

gate notting hill Sight 1.40pm, 6.40pm Rush Hour 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) ⊕ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Babe: Pig In the City 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.20pm the City 12noon. 2.20pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon. 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 9pm

(0171-930 3647) Charing Cross Sogni d'Oro 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Le Voyage Imaginaire 6.30pm, Voyage Imagin 8.30pm (+ Short)

METRO (0171-734 1506) ⊕ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Boys 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Fire 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) → Notting Hill Gate Dancing at Lughnasa 2.30pm. 4.30pm. 6.30pm, 8.45pm ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705-050007) & Camden Town Babe: Ptg in the City 11.55am.

1.55pm, 3.55pm The Mask of Zorro 11.50am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, Negotiator 5.30pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 5.55pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

ODEON HAVMARKET 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.55pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 2noon, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Ronin 6.20pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.30pm,

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) & Leicester Square The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm,

7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) ⊕ Marble Arch Babe: Pig In the City 12.15pm, 3.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11,50pm, 2,50pm, 5,55pm, 9pm The Negotiator 8.55pm Out of Sight 6pm, 8.55pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 6pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am. 4.25pm, 2.05pm. 6.45pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.15pm, 9.30pm 4.40pm, 7.05pm,

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) O Leicester 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 2.35pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Mulan 2.10pm, 4.20pm Snake Eyes 6.25pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 12,45pm, 3,15pm, 5,45pm, 8,20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) & Swiss Cottage Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 3.45pm Elizabeth 8.30pm Left Luggage 6.25pm. 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8pm Mulan 12.45pm Out of Sight 3pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The Signt 3pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,

(08705-050007) O Square The Parent Trap 12.15pm. 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Ronin 12.35pm. PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

ODEON WEST END

11.30am. 1.35pm, 3.40pm. 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) & East Finchley Antz 12pm Left Luggage 1.50pm La Vie Revée des Anges 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 3.55pm

(0990-888990) ← Piccadilly Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babe: Pig In the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm,

6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Show 6pm. 8.30pm Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm (0171-837 8402) & Russell Square On Connait la Chanson

1pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/⊕ Brixton Antz 12.05pm, 2.05pm Babe: Pig

Antz 12.05pm, 2.05pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm The Boys 7pm East Side Story 2.45pm It's a Wonderful Life 4.15pm (+ Short: Whoosh) The Mask of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm My Name is Joe 8.50pm (+ Short: The Man Who Held His Breath) Out of Sight 6.35pm, 9.15pm (+ Short: Vacuum) The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm 6.50pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-935 2772) © Baker Street Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm My Name is Joe 2.20pm, 6.40pm Out of Sight SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) & Angel Antz 3.30pm La Vie Revée des Anges 6.15pm, 8.40pm SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) O Belsize Park

Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm My Name is Joe 8.50pm UCI WHITELEYS 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Prince Egypt 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Ronin 9.35pm Rush Hour

4,40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) → Sloane Square Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Mujan 12.45pm My ne is Joe 8,45pm Out of Sight Name is 10e 6,4-5pm Out or sight 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) — South Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm 20rd 12.20pm 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Negotlator 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 6.40pm 8.50pm Ronin 7pm, 9.30pm There's Something About Mary 2.15pm, 5.50pm, 9pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) ← Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm. Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm, 9pm The Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

6.10pm, 9pm

(0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square Blade 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Exercist , 3.20pm, 6pm, 8,40pп Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Tivo Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Mulan 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm The Negotiator 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm A 5.10pm, 9.20pm A.50pm, 5.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Playing God 7.10pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 7pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm.

<u>CINEMA</u> LONDON LOCALS

ACTON

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 10am, 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Blade 7pm, 9.55pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Mulan 10.25pm, 3.45pm The Mulan 10.25pm, 3.45pm Mulan 10.35am, 2.45pm The Ne-gotiator 6.10pm, 9.10pm Out Of gotiator 6.10pm, 9.10pm Out Of Sight 9.45pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 2.30pm, 3.05pm, 4.50pm, 5.20pm, 7.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, 9.25pm Small Soldiers 12.25pp, 4.40pm 12.25pm, 4.40pm

BARNET
ODEON (08705-050007) & High
Barnet Antz 12noon Babe: Pig In
The City 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.05pm The Mask Of
Zorro 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 8pm The
Negotiator 8.15pm Out Of Sight
8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm, BARNET 3.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

RECKENHAM ABC (0870-9020412) BR; Becken-Babe: Pig in The City 12.15pm. 2.35pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm. 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The

Prince Of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.40pm, 9pm Rush Hour 8.50pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig in The City 11am, 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm Blade 7.10pm, 9.40pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2pm, 5.20pm tnot Wed) 8.45pm The Mask OF Zorro 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Mulan 12noon Out Of 5.20m Witten 12:00m Out Or Sight 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Parent Trap 11.10am, 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Prince Of Egypt 11am, 12.10pm, 1.10pm, 2.20pm, 3.20pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,

There's Something About Mary 8.50pm Vertigo 5.30pm BROMLEY ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley Sou

Babe: Pig in The City 1.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.10pm Out Of Sight 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour, 3.50pm, 6.20pm Rush Hour 3.50pm, 6.20pm ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

7.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.45pm Small Soldiers 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.50pm

Rush Hour 8.40pm CROYDON **CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)** BR: Croydon West/East Buffalo 66 3.15pm Elizabeth 5.45pm The

Last Days Of Disco 8.30pm Mulan

SAFAR! (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. Babe: Pig In The City 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm: 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm; 12.20pm, 2.50pm The Mask Of 2orro 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon, 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.05pm Blade 6.50pm, 9.50pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Mulan 10.10am, 2.30pm The Negotlator 6pm, 9pm Out Of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm
The Prince Of Egypt 10.40am,
1,10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.10pm,
6.40pm, 9.30pm Small Soldiers

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ◆ Dagenham Heathway Antz 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 8pm Babe: Pig In The City 10.30am, 11am, 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm Blade 8.40pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 5.50pm, 9.10pm Mulan 11.20am, 4pm The Negotiator 9.30pm Out Of Sight 8.30pm

12.10pm, 4.30pm

The Parent Trap 10.45am, 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 11am, 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 5.15pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm, 9.50pm Small Soldiers 1.40pm, 6.15pm

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-

9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway
Babe: Pig in The City 12noon The
Mask Of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm,
3.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 1pm,
3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.05pm Rush
Hour form, 8.40pm Hour 6pm, 8.40pm EDGWARE BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556)

© Edgware Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.30pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehndi phone for times Nasseb phone for times The Parent Trap 1.45pm (not Wed). 5pm, 8pm Wajood phone for times

EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-Babe: Pig in The City 10.45am, 12.10pm. 1.15pm. 2.30pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 6.25pm, 7.50pm Blade 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.05pm Dolt Sajake Rakhna 8.55pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 5.10pm, 8.40pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.35pm. 6.50pm, 10pm Mulan 10.35am, 12.50pm The Negotiator 10.10pm Out Of Sight 4pm, 7pm, 10.20pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8pm The Prince Of Egypt 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Rouln 9.25pm Rush Hour 11.40am, 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 3.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm.

7.15pm, 8.55pm, 9.50pm Sa

Soldiers 11am, 1.30pr

Private Ryan 9.15pm Small

FELTHAM CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Ancz 11.25am, 1.25pm, 3.25pm. 11.25am, 1.25pm, 3.23pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm Babe: Pig In The City 121000, 2.20pm, 4.40pm Blade 7pm, 9.30pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 3.20pm, 9.50pm Jhoole 2.35pm, 6.05pm, 9.35pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kudrat 3pm, 6.30pm, 10pm Lock, Stock & Turo Smoking Barrels 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan 11am, 1pm Nasseb 11.30am, 6.20pm The Negotiator 6.15pm Out Of Sight 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap Film) 12noon, 3pm, 9pm Wajood 11.15am, 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.45pm

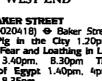
NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 11.30am, 2pm 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Babe: Pig in The City 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Blade 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.10am, 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.30am, 12.40pm The Negotiator 5.40pm, 9.20pm Out Of Sight 6.50pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Small Soldiers 2.50pm

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE NAV Road Antz 604 3110) © Finchley Road Antz 1.30pm, 3.40pm, WARNER VILLAGE ROAD (0171-11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Mulan 11.30am, 1.40pm The Ne-gotiator 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm Out Of Sight 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 12.00on, 9.40pm Ine rarent trap 12.00n, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Prince Of Egypt 11am, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Ronin 10.05pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm Smalt Soldiers 11.05am, 1.20pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green The Prince Of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR:

Greenwich Antz 1.10pm Elizabeth 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Mulan 12.55pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm



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HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) + Belsize Park Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Out Of Sight 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

HARROW SAFARI (0181-426 0303) + Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weald-stone Doli Sajake Rakhna 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Fire 7pm Kudrat 1.30pm, 8.45pm

HARROW WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) S Harrow-on-the-Hill Antz 11.40am, 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 11.40am, 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm Blabe: Pig In The City 10.40am, 11.10am, 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm Blade 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.45am, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm The Negotiator 9.10pm Out Of Sight 6.05pm, 8.45pm The Persont Transition of the Person Tran Negotiator 9.10pm Out Of Sight 6.05pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 10.15am, 1.05pm, 3.55pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm The Prince Of Egypt 9.35am, 12.05pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.25pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 11am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 10pm Small Soldiers 10.05am, 12.55pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm

ODEON (08705-050007) & Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 1pm, 3.05pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask Of Zor-

HOLLOWAY

to 12.30pm, 3.45pm fine Mask Of Zor-re 12.30pm, 3.45pm Mu-lan 1.20pm The Negotiator 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out Of Sight 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 3.50pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm, 9.05pm Small Soldiers 12.35pm

ODEON (08705- 050007) @ Gants Hill Babe: Pig In The City 1.10pm. 3.35pm. 6pm The Mask Of Zorro 3.35pm, 6pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.50pm. 5pm, 8.10pm The Nego-tiator 8pm Out Of Sight, 8.15pm The Parent Tap 11.55am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm The Prince Of Egypt 11.40am, 2pm 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) → Kilburn Dancing at Lughnasa 6.30pm Mulan 1.30pm, 4pm

ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.10cm. 3.25cm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705-050007) & Highgate Babe: Pig In The City 12,20pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.30am, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out Of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 11.55am, 2.05pm, n. 6.45pm, 9pm

PECKHAiii PREMIER 0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Babe: Pig in The City 12.35pm, 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm Blade 9.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Mulan 12.45pm The Negotiator 8.40cm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm,

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley In The City 4.10pm The Parent Trap 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.30pm. 3.50pm. 6.05pm, 25pm Rush Hour 6.20pm

PUTNEY Bridge. BR: Putney. Antz 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.30pm Out Of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45p

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm. 4pm, 6,50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/& Richmond Antz 1.30pm 3.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm. 3.40pm Dancing At Lugh-nasa 7pm. 9.20pm Mulan 1.20pm Negotiator 8.40pm Ou Sight 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm The Par-ent Trap 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Babe: Pig in The City 1.10pm. 3.30pm. 6.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm. 5.20pm. 8.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.20pm. 3.40pm. 6pm. 8.20pm Rush Hour 8.35pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz Babe: Pig In The City 11.30am. 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Blade 8.40pm Dr Dolittle 10.20am Ever After 10.20am Godzilla 10.20am Good Burger 10.20am The Mask Of Zorro 11am, 2pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Mulan 1.15pm, 3.30pm Out Of Sight 5.45pm, 20pm The Parent Trap 12,05pm 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm The 2.50pm, 5.35pm. 8.13pm ine Frince Of Egypt 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm. 9pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm Small Soldiers 12.30pm, 3pm.

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm Elizabeth 8.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.15pm. 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Antz 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12ncon. 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Out Of Sight 9pm The Parent Trap 12 45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 12noon. 2.15pm, 4.30pm. 6.50pm, 9.20pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) Streatham Hill Antz 4.20pm, 8.35pm Babe: Pig in The City 2.10pm, 6.20pm Out Of Sight 5.30mm, 8.20mm The Prince Of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm.

8.45pm Small Soldiers 2.25pm ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton Babe; Pig In The City 1.30pm. 3.50pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm.

3pm, 5,45pm, 8,30pm The Negotator 8,10pm The Parent Trap 12,10pm, 2,50pm, 5,30pm The Prace Of Egypt 12,15pm, 2,25pm, 4,35pm, 6,45pm, 8,55pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,

STRÄIFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE(555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Babe: Pig in The City 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 6.35pm, 9pm Slums Of Beverly Hals 7pm, 9.15pm

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sur-ton/O Morden Antz 11.30am, 1.30pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in The City 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Blade 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Negotiator 6.30pm Out Of Sight 9.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am. 2,45pm, 5.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 10,45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.125pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Saving n. 13pm, 0.43pm, 9.15pm Saving Private Ryan 8.30pm Small Soldier 11-

TURNPIKE LANE TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)

Turnpike Lane Babe: Pig In The
City 1.50pm. 3.45pm The Mask Of
Zorro 2pm. 5.15pm, 8.10pm The
Prince Of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm.
6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour
6.30pm, 8.45pm SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0990-888990) ← Surrey Quays Antz 11.15am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 11am, 11.15am, 1.10pm, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 4pm, 6.40pm Blade 9.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Blade 9.20pm Lock, Stock & Iwo Smoking Barrels 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Mulan 11am, 1.30pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out Of Sight 6.50pm, 9.50pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 10.65am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6on 10.45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 10.40pm Ronin 7pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 11.45am, 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 7.15pm, 9pm, 9.40pm Small Sol-dlers 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) & Uxbridge Babe: Pig In The City 11.45am Dr Dolittle 11.30am The Mask Of Zorro 1.55pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) & Walthamstow Central Antz 6.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 2.20pm. 4.40pm The Parent Trap 2pm. 5pm. 8pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Tharnes The Mask Of Zorro 5.25pm. 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm,

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm. 8.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

WINBLEDON ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Wimbledon/O South Wimbledon Antz 12.15pm Babe: Pig In The City Mask Of Zorro 11,45am, 2,30cm, 5.20pm. 8.15pm Out Of Sight 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 11.30am, 1.50pm, .10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Ronin 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.10pm,

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) © Tumpike Lane Fire 2.30pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 5pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 8.30pm

ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodford Anta 6.20pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 3.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.05pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig In The City 1.50pm, 3.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm. 6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Avengers (12) 2.30pm. 8.45pm The Adventures of Robin Hood (U) 6.30pm Endurance: The White Wilderness (NC) 6.15pm Fargo (18) 8.30pm Colour in the m to the Open Road: Mu seum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Armaged-don (12) 8.45pm The Disappear ance of Finbar (15) 3.30pm Fire (15) 1pm Rounders (15) 6pm

RISTOL CUBE (01 | 4-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm Out of Sight (15) 7pm. 9.30pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 3pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm Henry Fool (18) 8.40pm if Only

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Elizabeth (15) 4.30pm, 9,15pm lt's a Wonderful Life (U) 2pm, 6.50pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Insomnia (18) 7.30pm

Snake Eyes (15) 2.30pm, 8.30pm CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Babe: Pig in the City (U) 1.30pm Elizabeth (15) 8.45pm Ever

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Mulan (U) 2.30pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 6pm, 8.15pm The Truman Show (PG) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

After (PG) 6pm Mulan (U) 3.45pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Dr Dolittle (PG) 2.30pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 5,30pm There's Something About Mary (15) 8.15pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week: running times include intervals. Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

ALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ₱ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama, Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7,30om [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

» ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) O Lefc Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm. [7][1] 5pm. £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. A REALITY AND THE REAGT I SV.

ish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tot-tenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 & 7.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins. **▶ BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-**

sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊕ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Today 3pm & 7.45pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins. ● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie

Savoy Strand new 1970s musical.
Savoy Strand. WC2 (0171-836
8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ← Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thu 8pm,
Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7]
5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. DEUDDY Musical biog-show trac-ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ← Covent Garden/Charlog X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm,

£10-£27, half price Friday matinees. D CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, (21712-21) 6.72 0.675 165 min. [3][7] 3pm, £12.30-£35. 165 mins.

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelwhite aim tree lightcub sc; wearphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

D CENDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan, E5-£18, concs £6.50.

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 olays, Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ↔ Picc Circ. To-day 3pm & 8pm, £6-£25. Thu mats

● DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hamnersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) O Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of the TV series . Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) € Leic So/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16

O FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. Today 3pm. ends 27 Feb, £12-£30. 120 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm.

[4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins. AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo pher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production

of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5045) Φ Picc Clrc. Today 3pm & 7.45pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

DAN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road. WCZ (0171-494 5085) 9 Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm. [4] 2.30pm. [7] 5pm. £10.50-£25. 110 mins.) INTO THE WOODS Sondheim

and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warese Earthan, Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) • Covent Garder 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoppard's play about the life of po-et A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (017)-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £10-

● JESUS, MY BOY Torn Contistars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 S070) ◆ Picc Circ. Tue-Fri Spm. Sat Spm & Spm. [1] 3pm & Spm. 55 Sol-518 Sol. 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

• KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Ben-nett's comedy about the moribund riter: Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm. ends 26 Feb. £12-£30.

• LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SWĪ (0171-369 1731) ⊕ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Today 3pm & 8pm. ends 31 Jan, £6-£25.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's sprawling 19th century masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909)

Picc Circ. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins.

 MUSS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

) THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) Φ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI Sean Foley and Hamish McCoil star in a new version of Brecht's comedy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) → Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£22.50. O THE PHANTOM OF THE

OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's

Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Hay-market, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. DRENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New

York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** I OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliv-

er's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep today 2pm & 7.15pm. ● LYTTELION: Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On ac-tors and recreates Sid James, Ken-neth Williams and Babs Windsor on

stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins. OCCUTESLOE: Haroun And The Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acned novel. In rep today 2,30p 67.30pm, ends 6 Jan. Olivier & Lyt-telton: E8-E27. Cortesioe: £12-£18. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/O

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE BARBICAN: The Merchant Of Venice RSC production of Shakespeare's drama about love and money. In rep tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins.

I THE PTP: Shadows: Riders To The Sea & The Shadow of The Glen & Purgatory Triple-bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Mar. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican/Moorgate.

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

O THE SNOWMAN Awardwinning production of Raymond Briggs's contemporary classic. Sadier's Wells At The Peacock Por-tugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) ← Holborn, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends Jan 30, £7.50-£32.50. O STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3][7] 3pm. £12.50-£30. 150 mins. THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street.

Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 30 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) € Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sar 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

WCQ (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-

144) O Covent Garden, Mo

• WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) € Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7]

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story: Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

BAC The King And I Steam Industry and BAC join forces for this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. Tue-Sat 7. 30pm. ends 10 Jan. £12, concs £8, under 16s - £6. Mary And The Shaman Set in De-partment store on Christmas Eve, a shaman and a bag-lady take the Virgin from the Nativity on a mysterious journey. Tue-Sat 7.45pm. Sun 5.30pm. ends 3 Jan. £9, concs £6. Lavender Hlff. SW11 (0171-223

2223) BR: Clapham Junction CHICKEN SHED THEATRE Cinderella In Boots Alternative and updated version of Cinders's classictale. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat today 3.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£11. Southgate/Cockfosters.

GATE THEATRE The Wolf Road Tale of Viking gods battling with all and sundry. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. ends SWAN THEATRE A Month in The 16 Jan. £10. concs £6. Mon - all se £6. Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706) ↔ Notting Hill Gate.

RICHMOND THEATRE Jack And The Beanstalk Toyah Willcox, Mark Curry and Vicki Michelle join the stars of Rainbow. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 30 Jan. £8-£15, concs Surrey (0181-940 0088) & Rich

THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST Cinderella Follow Cinderella's transformation from ragged servant to glittering princess. Mon-Thu 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 23 Jan. E5-£15. Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (0181-534 0310) & Stratford.

YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights Collection of magical Eastern tales adapted for the stage by Dominic Cooke. Mon-Wed 7pm, mats Mon. £7-£18. The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 6363) BR/& Waterloo.

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call AS PART OF the London International Mime Festival, the acclaimed Catalan soap bubble wizard Pep Bou premieres his latest creation, Ambrossia. Pep Bou's

fantastic bubbles of light were a sell-out success at last year's festival and it has been said of him, "he treats his bubbles like pets and they seem to respond to him". Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) 20-24 Jan

Last Call

DURING HIS 30-year career Neil Diamond (right) has sold more than 100 million records. And as this British tour will no doubt show, as there are still plenty of fans out there wanting to wave knickers at their idol. Diamond has a reputation for being an electric live performer and this, together with a willingness to work up a sweat, has helped maintain his status as a major box-office attraction.

Newcastle Arena (0191-260 5000) 24 Feb; Manchester Evening News Arena (0161-950 5000) 27-28 Feb; Sheffield Arena (0114-256 2002) 2 Mar, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (0121-780 4133) 4-5 Mar; Wembley Arena, London (0181-902 8833) 8-11 and 13-14 Mar



THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

THEATRE ROYAL Jack And The Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eas-tenders stars alongside Only Fools and Horses' John Challis, Today and Horses' John Challis. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. E6-£16.

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Christopher Biggins is Mother Goose. Tue & Wed 7.30pm, Thu 5pm, mat today 2.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street

(01273-328488) GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The Wind in The Willows Kenneth Gra-hame's enchanting tale of riverlife is adapted for the stage. Mon-Wed 6.30pn, mats Mon-Thu 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £6.96-£8.95, concs avallable. University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs With Coronation Street's Beverly Callard and Nick Cochrane. Mon-Wed 7pm. Thu 5.30pm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 10 Jan. £5-£14. Wheeler Street (01223-357851).

NEW THEATRE The Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe David Essex stars in this swashbuckling adventure. Mon-Wed 7pm, Thur 5pm, mats Mon-Thu 2.30pm, ends 17 Jan, £7-£13.50, concs avallable. Park Place (01222-878889)

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save The World New adnture, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999. Mon-Wed 7pm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-£10. concs available. Senghenydd Road (01222-230451) GUILDFORD

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Jack And The Beanstalk Rosemarie Ford Tim Brooke-Taylor and Robert Powell join Are You Being Served's 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £9.50-£17.50. concs available. Millbrook (01483-4400001 NORWICH

MADDERMARKET THEATRE The Wind in The Willows Alan Bennett's adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame riverlife novel. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £4-£6.50. St. Johns Alley (01603-620917) THEATRE ROYAL Aladdin East An-

glia's biggest pantomime stars Desmond Barrit Christopher Cazenove and Nichola McAuliffe. Tue & Wed 7.30pm, mats Tue-Thu 2.30pm ends 23 Jan. F3-F12 75 concs as able. Theatre Street (01603-630000)

APOLLO THEATRE Jesus Christ Superstar Tim Rice and Lloyd bher's acclaimed biblical music Tue & Wed 7.30pm, mat Wed 3pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£24.50, conce available. George Street (01865-244544)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Pamily panto with plenty of songs and audience participation for the dream-ing spires. Mon & Tue 7pm, Wed & Thu 5.30pm, mars Mon-Thu 2pm. mont Street (01865-798600)

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldilocks And The Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Howman and Emily Symons in this star-studded panto. Mon-Thu 2pm & 7pm, ends 14 Feb. £7.50cial Road (01703-711811)

NUFFIELD THEATRE Alice In Wonderland Join Alice on a trip to the topsy turvy world of Wonderland and meet the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and many more. Mon-Wed 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £5.95-£12.50, concs available. University Road

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic. In rep, today 2.30pm. ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. In rep tonight, 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623) GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Melinda Messenger and Steven

£12.75, concs available. Singleton Street (01792-475715) WORTHING PAVILION THEATRE Peter Pan Cladiator Rebel stars. Mon-Wee 7pm, Thu 5pm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.95-£9.90. Marine

Parade (01903-820500)

Prince Charming, Mon-Wed 2.15pm & 7,15pm, ends 31 Jan. £6.50-

CONNAUGHT THEATRE Aladdin Ex-Big Breakfast star Mark Little goes up the Beanstalk with Linda Nolan, Mon-Wed 7pm, Thu 5, 30pm, Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 10 Jan £8-£11.50, concs available. Union Place (01903-235333)

EXHIBITIONS CLASSICAL

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY All Zones Off Peak: Tom Wood Photographic representation of bus journeys. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm (phone for Christmas open ing), ends 24 Jan. £2.50, concs £1.75. The Octagon Galleries, Mil-som Street (01225-462841)

ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians: ARROLFING Secret Victorians: Contemporary Art And A Mine-teenth Cenury Vision British and American artists including Mat Collishaw and Helen Chadwick respond to the Victorian era. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 31 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM The Society Of Three: Whistier. Fantintour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 14 Feb, free, Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CARDIFF
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Kalighat Icons 69 Kalighat water-colours charting the last days of the British occupation of India. Tue-Sun prints occupation of India. Ide-Sun 10am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends Jan 3. £4.25, concs £2.50, family £9.75 (to museum). Josef Koudelka Photographic im-ages in a major exhibition spread across four galleries. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 3 Jan. £4.25, concs £2.50 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-

BANKSIDE GALLERY The Winter Collection Paintings and prints, with one painting by Singer Sargent on special display. Tue 10am-8pm, Wed-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun 1pm-5pm (closed dec 24-Jan 5), ends 31 Jan. £3.50, concs £2. Hopton Street, SE1 (0171-928

COURTAULD GALLERY, COUR-TAULD INSTITUTE Material Evidence: Drawings From The Courtauld Collection Including work by Constable, Rubens and Var Gogh, Mon-Sat 10am-6om, Sun & Bank Hols 12noon-6pm (last adm. 5.15pm) (phone for Christmas openingl, ends 24 Jan. £4, concs £2, free 10am-2pm Mon (to gallery). Som-erset House. Strand, WC2 (0171-873 2526) C Embankment

NATIONAL GALLERY Luca Signorelli In British Collections Drawings and paintings by the artist who influenced Raphael and 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sur 12noon-6pm (closed 24-26 Dec), ends 31 Jan. free. Trafalgar Square. WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Charing Cross, Leicester Square

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Life? Or Theatre?: The Work Of Charmade between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thu, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan (closed 25 Dec). £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-18 £2,50, child 8-11 £1. Burlington House, Piccadil-ly. W1 (0171-300 8000/cc 413 1717) O Green Park.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL BALL-ROOM Duane Hanson Life-like models of poeple displayed in the pubic spaces. Mon-Sun 10am-11pmm. (closed 25 Dec), ends 17 Ja outh Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960

TATE GALLERY John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition de-voted to the paintings of the 19th century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm (closed 24-26 Dec). ends 7 Jan. £6, concs £4. in Celebration: The Art Of The Country House Paintings and sculp-ture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein, Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm (closed 24-26 Dec), ends eb 28, free. Milibank, 5W1 (0171-887 8000) & Pimlico.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Authorey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 draw-ings and prints. Mon 12noon-5.45pm. Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm (closed 24-26 Dec), ends 10 Jan. £5, concs £3. under 18/E540s/disibled/mems/4.30pm-5.45pm. free (to museum). Grinling Gibbons And The Art Of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th century woodcarver. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm (closed 24-26 Dec), , ends 24 Jan. £5, concs £3, under 18/ES40s/dlsabled/mems/4.30pm-

8441) 🗣 South Kensington. ST. IVES ST. IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the cond half of the century, and a selection of contemporary work. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening). ends 11 Apr. E3.50, concs E2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

5.45pm, free (to museum). Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938

CHRIST CHURCH City Chamber Choir English settings by Warlock, Howells and others. Tonight 6.30pm. £4-£14. Commercial Street, £1 (0171-377, 1362) ♦ Liverpool St/Aldgate/Aldgate East.

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Polyphony/Layton With a fine quar-tet of soloists in Handel's Messiah, Tonight 7.30pm. £10-£35. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) WIGMORE HALL Goldsmiths

Choral Union/Wright Accompanied by the London Philharmonic in Ran-del's Messiah. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£28.50. Wigmore Street. W1 (0171-935 2141) ⊕ Bond Street.

OPERA

LONDON SADLER'S WELLS The Bartered Bride Smetana's classic opera in a new Royal Opera staging directed by Francesca Zambello. Tonight 7pm. £10-£60. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000) & Angel.

DANCE

CHICHESTER CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THE-ATRE Russian National Ballet: Triple Bill Performances of Tcharkovsky's best-loved master-pieces The Nutcrucker, Sleeping Beauty and Sman Lake are danced by Russia's brightest and most gifted performers. The Nutcracker, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's new staging of the favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Today 2.30pm (Clarke/Guinea/McIkroy), & tonight 7.30pm (Pavane/De Leeuw), £2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) Leicester

Square/Charing Cross. LYCEUM THEATRE Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker Peter Wright's stunning production. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm (Vallo/Parker/Fisher1, £12,50-£45, We /Fisher). £12.50-£45. Wellington reet, WC2 (0171-656 1802) Oharing Cross/Embankment.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL The Royal Ballet: Cinderella Frederick Ashton's production of Prokoflev's fairy story. Today 2pm (Wildor/Nunn), & tonight 7pm (Yoshida/Sansom). £15-£48, concs and restricted view ava Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/&

LITERATURE

BOOKBINDING 1998 On display are examples from the 1998 Book binding Competition, plus short-list ed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Foyer Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) Euston. Mon, Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Tue 9,30am-8pm, Sat 9,30am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, free.

NEW RIVER WRITERS Edectic writers group meeting in pub setting Morlarty's Liverpool Road N1 (0181-993 0285) Angel. Wed

COMEDY

LONDON LENNY BEIGE AT THE REGENCY ROOMS, NEW LONDON THEATRE Dazzling showbiz crooner drags in the audience, and introduces some special guests. Tonight 7.30pm, Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-406 0072) O Covent Garden, £20.

THE COMEDY STORE The Comedy Store Players with Lee Simpson. Jlm Sweeney, Neil Mullarkey, Steve Steen, Tony Hawks, Tonight Spm. Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433) O Piccadilly Circus, £11.

COMEDY CAFE Helen Austin, King of the surreal one-liners Milton Jones, MC Martin Davis. Tonight 8pm, Rhington Street, EC2 (0171-739 5706) ⊕ Old Street, phone for

CLUBS

BRISTOL PHILLIE NITES 1ST BIRTHDAY AT THE THEKLA With DJ Milo, Norman Jay, DJ Krust and MC Dynamite. Tonight 9pm-2am, phone for prices. The East Mud Dock, The Grove, (0117-929 3301)

LONDON THE LOFT AT HOS Paul Trouble Anderson drops super spongy house sounds alongside top guest ovcalists and DJs. Tonight 9.30pm-2am, £5. concs £4. West Yard, NW1 (0171-485 6044) O Camden Town.

EVENTS

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ABERYSTWYTH CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Design and craft fair giving last-minute gift inspiration. Aberystwyth Arts Centre Penglals (01970-623232) Today 10am-8pm, free.

THE GREAT CHALLENGE 1998 International political cartoon exhibi-tion, in sid of Amnesty International, Index on Censorship and the Cartoon Art Trust. The Gallery, Oxo Tourer Wharf ground floor Bargehouse Street SE1 (0171-928 6193) & Waterioo. Today 10am-6pm, ends 23 Dec, free (donations welcomed).

FUTURE GENERATIONS EXHIBI-TION Celebrating BBC television's wealth of children's programmes over the years. London Toy And Model Museum Craven Hill W2 (0171-706 8000/402 5222) © Paddington/Lancaster Gate. Mon-Sun 9am-5.30pm, closed 24-26 Dec, usual admission (£5.50, child £3.50, concs £4.50, family £15).

FEASTING AND FASTING EXHI-BITION Examining food and drink through history. Saffron Walden Museum Museum Street (01799-510333) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30pm-5pm, ends 14 Mar, £1, concs 50p, child free.

MUSIC

LONDON SNIPPER, BUG EYED STARFISH, VALADICTION Stuffy G and his accratic off kilter Surrey pop quartet, recently augmented by some devilish keyboard work. Dublin Castle Parkway NW1 (0171-378 6095) , © Camden Town, Tonight 8.30pm (£4, concs £3,50.

chanteuse with a diverse resume. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) & Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £15-£18. CRAVE Punk-metal TJ's Woolwich New Road SE18 (0181-855 7960) BR: Woolwich Arsenal. Tonight 8pm,

CARLEEN ANDERSON Soul

SWINDON STATUS QUO, T'PAU The unstop-STATUS QUO, 1 Pro 1 1 Pro pable British blues bruisers. Open Centre Northstar Avenue (011)

£3, concs £2.

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

SAMARA Popular Christmas get-together hosted by club owner Steve Ruble. 606 Club Lors Road 5W10 (0171-352 5953) ← Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm, Music charges £3.70 for members,

SAX APPEAL Leading contemporary saxist Derek Nash and colleagues
Bull's Head Lonsdale Road SW (0181-876 5241) BR: Barnes Brid LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR AND RUBY TURNER: A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS Rev Basil

Meade and his funky gospel ensemble are joined by the soul diva. Barbican Hall Barbican Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891)

Moorgate. Tonight 7.30pm. £9.50-£22.50. MUSITIANS OF GROPE LANE The City Waites perform rude songs from the brothels and ale houses of 17th Century England, Purcell Room South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BRV-9 Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, £8-

£10, concs £6-£8. THE HACKNEY RAMBLERS Capun from ex-members of The Crayfish-5.
The Weavers Arms Newington
Green Road N1 (0171-226 691)
BR/O Highbury & Islington. Tonight. 8.30pm, £4.

tralian jazz and cabaret vocalist. Mezzo Wardour Street W1 (0171-314 4000) O Leicester Square/fottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £5 surcharge for diners after 10pm. SCOTT HAMILTON QUARTET Mainstream and swing classics from ac-claimed tenor sax smoothie, Pizza

TRUDY KERR Soul-inflected Aus-

Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) & Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 9pm, £12.50. BOB KERR AND HIS WHOOPEE BAND - CHRISTMAS SHOW Seasonal antics from Spike Jones devotees. Pizza on the Park Knights-bridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm

& 11.15pm, £18, £16 adv, GEORGE MELLY AND JOHN CHILTON'S FEETWARMERS Veteran showman and vocalist in regular Christmas panto. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) ♠ Leicester Square, Tonight 9.30pm, phone for details.

IAN SHAW/SARAH-JA MORRIS Ortex vocal favourities in seasonal duo setting vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington, Tonight 8pm, £12.

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session 98. 10.00 John Peel 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

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RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker: Including news, views, music, the Mystery Voice Competition, sport and regular travel updates. 7.00 Nick Barraclough. See Pick of the Day. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show: Andy Peebles presents the fifth of 13 programmes exploring the world of soul music from the fifties to the present day. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 11.45 Following My Star. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.0 -

4.0 Mo Dutta. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 the cert. (R)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Choral Evensong. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms.

6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Christmas Cocktails. See Pick of the Day. 7.30 Performance on 3. Another

chance to hear ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. 3: Prom 68, given on 8 September, features Szymanowski's radiantly beautiful Violin Concerto No 1. Raphael Oleg (violin), Czech PO/Libor Pesek. Dvorak: Overture 'My Home'. Szymanowski: Violin Concerto No 1. Brahms: Symphony No 1 in C minor. (R)

3.10 Postscript. Comedian and broadcaster Rainer Hersch presents five personal and idiosyn-

6.00 Casper: a Spirited Beginning (1997) (87743). **8.00** A Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995) (33149). **10.00** Carpool

Reginning (1997) (16472), 2.00 The Angel Pennsylvania Avenue (1996) (58897). 4100 Carpool (1996) (6897). 6.00 A Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995) (17762).

7.30 The Barry Norman Interview (8120).

8.00 The Nephew (1996) (40878), 10.00

Donnie Brasco (1997) (57694014). See

Pick of the Day. 12.10 The Last of the

High Kings (1996) (640618). **1.55** Glory (1989) (93074521). **4.00 - 6.00** Major

6.00 Back to the Planet of the Apes

(1974) (99697). 7.30 Disney's Return to

(1996) (727052). 11.15 The Buttercream

Back to the Planet of the Apes (1974)

1992) (14299052), 1.00 The End of Tine (1991) (26859), 3.00

(26656). **5-00** Disney's Return to Snowy

(41507), 11.00 Scream (1997) (201526). 12.50 Bullet (1995) (426250). 2.25 Gold

Pilver (1988) (64946). 7.00 Jack (1996)

(71897). 9.00 Before and After (1995)

n the Streets (1997) (250366). 4.05 -

6.00 A Switch in Time (1987) (968569).

4.00 The Great Dictator (1940) (7332323).

(9748385). 8.00 The Pink Panther Strikes

Again (1976) (9743830). **10.00** Badtands

Fame (6744434). 4.15 Magic Town (1947)

6.00 Century of Cinema: Cinema of Un-

Muriel's Wedding (1994) (2997743), 1.15 Metropolitan (1990) (5323521), 2.50 Circle

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8784948). 4.30 Walker's World (8773830). 5.00 Connections 2 by James

(8797410), 6.00 Animal Doctor (8794323).

6.30 Ways of the Wild: Cover Story (Wild

Discovery) (2254236). 7.30 Beyond 2000

(2139323), 8.30 Antmal X (2118830), 9.00

(8781859). 8.00 How Did They Build That

(1988) (2341586), 9.30 Four Weddings

and a Funeral (1994) (3853120), 11.30

Godzilla Raids Again (1955) (3803182).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6.00 Rebel without a Cause (1955)

(1973) (4176743). 11.35 MASH (1970) (8688694). 1.30 The Hustler (1961) (77909927). 3.45 Hollywood Hall of

(73,0989), 5.55 Close.

Snowy River (1988) (76935762). 9.15 Jack

Payne (1995) (45434).

SKY MOVEMAX

(1996) (93946). 12.00 Casper: a Spirite

SKY PREMIER

PICK OF THE DAY

AS A RELIEF from all the goodwill that floats around at this time of year, we have Animals Behaving Badly (9pm R4), the first of four programmes on the appalling things that animals do to each other. This is not just the traditional big cat killing an antelope that is a staple of wildlife TV, but really unpleasant things like mob killings by gangs of rooks and cannibalism.

Christmas Cocktails (7pm R3) tonight offers a selection of wartime danceband songs including Judy Garland (right) singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". Also worth a listen is Nick

Barraclough's New Country Christmas (7pm R2), which promises, among other treats, "Leroy the Redneck Reindeer". ROBERT HANKS



cratic studies of the music of our century. 3: 'What Made You Think of That?". A comedic rummage in Disquise. the trunk marked 'inspirations, Muses and the Frankly Unbeliev-

9.30 Beethoven and Mozart Quintets. Bruno Giuranna (viola) joins the Endellion Quartet for a recital of string quintets. Beethoven, compl Donat: Prelude and Fugue in D, Op 137 (Hess 40). Mozart: String Quintet in D. K593. Beethoven: String Quintet in C, Op

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six programmes in which Robert Cushman presents a personal view of musicals, with songs from original cast recordings - some familiar, some less well known. 2: 'New Shows, Newer Voices'.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek. 9.30 Carols for Choirs. 9.45 Serial: Scraps with lannucci. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Classic Toys. 11.30 Pollyanna. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Wildbrain. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Henry's Leg. 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question 3.30 Beating the System. 3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of

4.00 NEWS; Case Notes. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Booked!.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme, including a report on the box-office battles about to break out in American

cinemas this Christmas. 7.45 Under One Roof. The first of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. With Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (3/5). 8.00 NEWS; Education 2000. A

forum which tests plans to improve the country's education system by the early years of the next century. Edward Stourton invites panel and guests to discuss whether laying down the law is the way to raise standards in school. 8.45 Keyword. Matt Frei highlights a word from a foreign language which captures the essence of that country and its

culture. 2: 'Angst'. 9.00 NEWS; Animals Behaving Badly. The first in a four-part series exploring some of the many antisocial activities of wildlife around the globe, from cannibalistic hamsters to egg-dumping swallows. See Pick of the Day. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversa10.00 The World Tonight, With

Robin Lustig. 10-45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. Five stars read their chosen seasonal tale. 3: Diana Rigg reads Baboushka as retold by Arthur Scholey. 11.00 Children's Hour., with Arm-

strong and Miller. Martin Bain-Jones and Craig Children polish off their so-called cultural review, with comedy playmates Charlie Condou and Melissa Lloyd. 11.30 4 at the Store. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 • 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW**

(198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Life and Death of Belfast Celtic. George Best presents the second of two programmes looking at the life and death of the team that fifty years ago were the finest football team

in Ireland. 8.00 Any Sporting Questions. John inverdale is the host in Portsmouth as a local audience fire questions to the celebrity sporting panel

10.00 Late Night Live. With Steve LeFevre. Incl 1100 News Briefing. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Topical discussion 1.00 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R)

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Saint-Seens: Carnival of the

Animals. Johnny Morris (narrator), Slovak RSO/Ondrej Lenard. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Pascha: Christmas Mass in F. Praque Madrigal Singers/Mirsolav Venhoda. Jim Parker: Concerto for clarinet and strings. Ian Herbert, Apollo CO/David Chernaik. Holst: The Hymn of Jesus. Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral, London Symphony Chorus, LPO/Charles Groves, Britten: A Ceremony of Carols. Julia Migenes (soprano), Osian Ellis (harp), Choir of King's College, Cambridge/David Willcocks. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Grif-

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105,8MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 6.00 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Foul Play. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm, 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 Mike Allen.

1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

7.00 Crossroads (8618269). 7.30 Neigh-

bours (4220033). 7.55 EastEnders (4637410). 8.30 The Bill (7066781). 9.30

Middlemarch (9032304), 10.30 Angels

(8963694). **1L00** Dalas (3377304). **1L55** Neighbours (32726255). **12.25** East-

(7223859). **2.00** Dallas (6480743). **2.55**

(1588110). 4.30 Angels (76203526). 4.55

The Bill (7613323) 3.55 FastEnders

Film: Carry On Christmas: Carry On

Again, Doctor (1969) (20750236), 6.45

ber (6771675). 9.00 One Foot in the

Grave (5823762), 9.40 Men Behaving Bady (7781830), 10.20 Bottom

(5458878). **11.00** BW (6618089). **12.00**

Bread (f167637). 1.00 Some Mothers Do

'Ave 'Em (4597095). 1.50 Keeping Up Ap-

pearances (70969540). 2.55 - 7.00

Bread (79356633). 7.50 May to Decem-

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

FOLLOWING HIS two simultaneous displays last week, Gary Kasparov on Friday went to a journalists' lunch hosted by Bill Colegrave from publishers Cadogan, who are about

to change their name to Everyman. The event at the exclusive Home House club in Portman Square - due to open officially in January - was splendidly convivial; so much so that you feared that all would have become too anaesthetised for much interesting to emerge. Happily it was quite the reverse as Kasparov held forth on a number of topics, partic-

ularly the world championship. I generally refer to Kasparov as the Professional Chessplayers Association (PCA) world champion, after the organisation which he set up with Nigel Short for their breakaway match in 1994 - an action that he clearly now regrets. This in contrast to Fide's (Federation Internationale des Echecs) champion, who is still - following the fiasco when he defeated an exhausted Viswanathan Anand in January -Anatoly Karpov.

Kasparov, however, argues from historical perspective, placing himself in the direct line of descent from the first acknowledged world champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, who defeated Johannes Zukertort in 1886. After several successful defences, Steinitz was eventually unseated by Emanuel Lasker, who was followed by Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe and Alekhine again, after their return match in 1937.

Up to this stage, the title had essentially been the property of the world champion himself, who invited bids from challengers sufficiently well regarded and financially sup-

death in 1946, the Soviet Union joined Fide - created in 1924 but hitherto ineffectual with regard to the world championship. It was under Fide's auspices that the 1948 world championship tournament in The Hague and Moscow was organised, from which Mikhail

Botvinnik emerged victorious. The line then continued under Fide's auspices, fractured only by Bobby Fischer's refusal to defend his title in 1975 (Kasparov's take on this is that Fischer was being unreasonable precisely because he demanded better conditions than he received as challenger) up to Kasparov, who still, as far as he is concerned and whatever the political fall-out, remains the undefeated 13th champion.

I see two main problems with this. The first is that his relative "inactivity" recently will be easily addressed in 1999, when he intends to play much more. But the essential thing is that he defends his title soon however it is described.

Following the collapse of the World Chess Council and the failure to find a (good enough) alternative sponsor for a match with Alexei Shirov, it's now three-and-a-half years since his match with Viswanathan Anand in New York in the summer of 1995.

It seems absolutely clear that Kasparov won't, under any conditions, play in the Fide president Kirsan flyumzhinov's world championship knockout tournament next year. But he may play a match with the winner or, independently, with either Anand or Kramnik. Arguably, none of these options is ideal. But the one thing which is absolutely not ported. But following Alekhine's credible is glorious isolation.

Love all; dealer East

North

BRIDGE

"REMINISCENT OF a 1953 par contest hand," I remarked after watching my partner go down in Four Spades on this deal. "I wasn't born then," complained South. A very feeble excuse, I thought.

East opened One Club and South overcalled with One Spade. After a pass by West, I bid Two Clubs (an unassuming cue-bid, showing a high card raise to at least Two Spades). East doubled and South volunteered Two Diamonds, suggesting extra values. This prompted me to raise to Four Spades against which West led 🗘 J.

Declarer ruffed the club continuation and, judging that he needed both a heart trick and a ruff on the table, led a heart to the king. This lost to the ace and a third round of clubs finished matters, for now there were two trump losers. "It wouldn't have helped to draw two rounds of trumps first" observed declarer, "for when East gets in with ♥A, he leads a third trump." Now, this was only partially true.

trumps, but he takes care to end in dummy before leading a low heart away from the king. So, what does East do? (Remember, the bidding has surely marked him with VA.)

◆K53 ~K8 **♦AQ93 ₽**Q654 West East **♦**Q 10 9 ♥37432 ♡A 109 ♦8542 ٥ó **₽**J2 **♣**A K 10 9 7 3 South **◆**A8764 ♥O65 ♦KJ107 **♣**8

If he goes in with his ace, South has two heart tricks to come and no need of any ruffs. So East plays low and ? Q wins. From this point on. the play is simple - declarer crosses twice to dummy with diamonds and East is perfectly welcome to ruff. If he does, it is all over, if he does not, declarer simply trumps two more clubs in hand and reverts to diamonds.

The winning line could be classified as a avoidance play combined with a reverse dummy element, but perhaps that would have been before partner's time as well...

Shopping with Screenshop (48743163). LIVING 6.00 Tiny Living (9352323), 9.00 The Try this: (814507). 845 Sky Sports Centre Roseanne Show (4162149). 9.50 Jerry South does play off two rounds of (8294830). 8-30 Unbelievable Sports

Springer (5990052), 10.40 Michael Cole (3101410), 11.30 Brookside (1038762). 12.00 Special Babies (3199743), 12.30 Rescue 911 (1679304). 1.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (128304). 1.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7516217). 2.10 Jerry Springer (4902323), 3.00 Film: David and Bathsheba (1951) (92614878), 5.20 Tempestt (5023651). 6.10 Jerry Springer (6634743). 7.00 Rescue 911 (7311830). 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1997946). 8.00 Ally McBeal (9747656) 9.00 Halifax FP (9740743), #LOO The Spicy Sex Files (1464656), 12.00 Close

9.00 Captain Nemo and the Underwater City (1969) (65175762). 11.00 The Maltese Falcon (1941) (51126762). 1.00 The Last Run (1971) (51184786). 3.00 Captain Nemo and the Underwater City (1969) (14725540), **5.00** Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Clueless (9526), 7.30 Desmond's (3694), 8.00 Roseanne (5946), 8.30 Just Shoot Me (7781), 9.00 Cybil (45859), 9.30 Seinfeld (37491). 10.00 Fra 10.30 Cheers (91101), 11.00 Festival of Fun I (40304), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (54656). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (84298), 1.00 Taxi (38827), 1.30 The Critic (26347), 2.00 Dr Katz (38397). 2,30 Soep (84434), 3,00 Hooperman (84873), 3,30-4,00 Nightstand (75786).

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

EVER SINCE his startling this tough thriller is a far cry been inextricably linked with a range of gangster roles from Scarface to Carlito's Way. He returns to this fruitful territory in Donnie Brasco (10pm Sky Premier), a powerful tale of a young man (Johnny Depp) under his wing unaware that he agent. Based on a true story.

performances in The Godfather from director Mike Newell's trilogy, Al Pacino (right) has Four Weddings and a Funeral. Following in the wake of the none-too-glorious "Uncovered" documentary series which has visited Greece, the Caribbean and Ibiza, we now have Christmas Uncovered fading mobster who takes a (10pm Sky One) featuring footage of festive excess. Why do people always photocopy their is in fact an undercover FBI privates at Christmas parties? JAMES RAMPTON



The Unexplained - History's Mysteries (3383255). 9.30 The Unexplained - History's Mysteries (7239410). 10.00 The Easy Riders (5407965), 11.00 Real Lives: Not Too Young to Die (2913471). 12-00 Super Structures (1165279). 1.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (9697569). 1.30 Ancient Warriors (9936163). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE 8.00 Games World (4274491), 8.15 Garnes World (4264014). 8.30 Street Sharks (87897). 9.00 The Simpsons (78149), 9.30 Earthworm Jim (80472), 10.00 Hercules (41656). 11.00 The Ne Adventures of Superman (54)20), 12.00 Oprah Winfrey Show (8460101). 12.55 Special K (53581236). **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9541410). **1.55** Special K (77893323). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (6377217), 2.55 Special K (2376472). 3.00 Jenny Jones (7244694), 3.55 Special K (8807120). 4.00 Best of Guilty! (94101), 5,00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 6.30 Friends (6526). 7.00 The Simpsons (4052), 7.30 The Simpsons (5410), 8.00 SG-1 (33588). 10,00 Christmas Uncov-Friends (95830), 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (55168). 12.30 Highlander (17163). 1.30 - 8.00 Long Play (6743057). SKY SPORTS 1

(12694). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (42566). 9.30 The Footballers' Football Show (36471). 10.30 Inside Scottish Football (84675), 11.30 Fastrax (51410), 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (16410). 12.30 Spanish Football (72656). 2.30 Fastrax (1859). 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (62526). 4.00 The Footballers' Football Show (41033). 5.00 World Wresting Federation Shot Gun Challenge (4205). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2588). 6.30 Unbelievable Sports (5183). 7.00 Nigel Mansel Manset on Ice (77946). 8.00 Superstars 25th Anniversary (80410). 10.00 Sky Manseil · Manseil on Ice (232149). 11.15 Unbelievable Sports (652694), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (858217), 12.00 Superstars - 25th Anniversary (75540). 2.00 Table Football (74057). 2.30 Nigel Mansell - Mansell on Ice (26705). 3.30 Sky Sports

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3205946). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (5524236), 7.45 Motoplus (8778694). 8.15 Fastrax (699614 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (6219526) 9.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (2162472) 9.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (3234304). 10.00 V-Max (4482762). 10.30 Showjumping - Spruce Maadows Champlonship Season Review (1301743). 11.30 Ice Hockey (7991762). 2.00 Golf Extra (8487014). 5.00 Showjumping

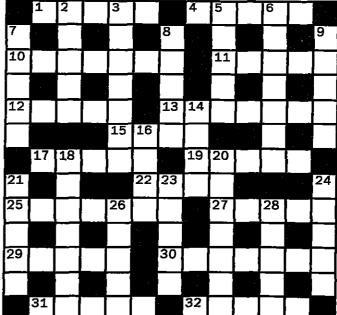
(5959156). **6.00** Watersports (3253439). **7.00** Golf Extra (1702217). **10.00** Skating (8597694), **12.00** Dancing (7227569), **1.00** Watersports (8354618), **2.00-2.15** Sports Centre (11581502). SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (48845439). 1.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (94003472). 1.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (48825675), 2.00 Superbouts Ali v Spinks (85333507). 3.00 Olympic Series Olympic Destinies (67570410). 3.30 Dancing (DSF Open Standard (40004439). 4.30 V-Max (93686859). 5.00 Figure Skating (74005526). **7.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (67562491), 7.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (93687588). 8.00 Table Football (67588439). 8.30 Unbelievable Sports (67567946). 9.00 Dancing (65194897). 10.00 Olympics (74085762). 10.30 Sky Sports Classics Snooker - 1996 British Open Final (14821217). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Xirem Soorts: Yoz Action (32526). 8.30 Xtrem Sports (25526). 9.30 Olympic Games (77965). 11.00 Football European Championship Legends (89830). 12.00 Truck Rading (30588). 1.00 Strength (49236). 2.00 Football (90897), 4.00 Sumo (36101), 5.00 Karting (5323). 6.00 Stock Car Racing (29472). 7.00 Darts (11439). 9.00 Boxing (91526), 10.00 Strength (61385), 11.00 Footbell (72859), 1.00 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3801 Wednesday 23 December



REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newstre 6.30 (946), 10.45 Review of the Year (804526), 11.25 War and Piste (880920), 11.55 Robble Williams - Some Mothers Do 'Ave Em (828033), 12.35 Faces Of Islam (4725908), 12.55 Film: That Riviera Touch (883521), 2.30 Joins BBC News 24 (1329182). BBC1 SCOTLAND

As BBC1 London except: 6.00 News (694), 6.30 Reporting Scotland Weather (946), 7.00 As BBC1 (4410). BBC1 Wales As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:

6.30 Wales Today (946), 12.15 Film: That Riviera Touch (662163). 1.45 Joins BBC News 24 (7911502). News and Weather (6874507). 1.00 Di-nosaurs: Domesticated dinosaur sitcom. When Earl sues a big company he learns that you can't take from the rich within a hurting the poor (60912) 2.35 Anne leave and Weather (6857830). Ance laws and Weather (685/830).

Leadle's Hot Shots: Jeremy Beadle's Hot Beadle's Hot

(505255), **10.45** Angla News and Weather (909120), **4.05** ITV Nightscreen (46096250), **4.10** Cybernet (87553250), **4.35** ITV Nightscreen (46013927). CENTRAL

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8050439). 7:15

World Wrestling Federation Live Wire

GENTRAL
As Carlton except: 9.25 ITN News
Headlines (4242694), 9.30 Central News
(5133762), 12.20 Central News and
Weather (624507), 12.30 ITN News;
Weather (62052), 1.00 Echo Point:
Teenage soap. Edwina survives her first
modeling job. Hopper tells Coral he
does not want to resume their relationship. Holly and Gordon have very different ideas about their wedding (60912),
2.35 Central News (6857830), 6.00
Beadle's Hot Shots (384033), 6.25 Central News and Weather (505255), 10.45
Central News and Weather (909120),
4.05 Jobfinder (7037255). 4.05 Jobfinder (7037255).

HTV WALES As Cariton except: 12.20 HTV As Cariton except: 12.20 HTV
News (8674507). LOO Shortland Street
(80912). 2.35 HTV News (8857830).
6.00 The Baidy Man: Two episdoes of
the silent comedy about a hapless, halrless gent: 'Ligsaw' and 'Murder'. Baidysearch for a missing place of jigsaw becomes a matter of life and death. Then
he turns detective during a stay at a mysterious hotel (384033). **6.25** Wales Toright (505255). **10.45** HTV News (909120). **4.05** HTV Nightscrean (46096250). **4.10** Cybernet (87553250). **4.35** HTV Nightscreen (46013927).

As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV Wast Weather (992101), 6.30 The West Tonight: All the latest news from around the west of England (994). MERIDIAN

MERIDIAN
As Cariton except: 10.50 Film:
The Wind in the Willows: Enforced joility in rather wearing version of Kenneth Grahame's much loved children's stories. With Terry Jones, Steve Coogan, Eric Idle, John Cleese (5123410). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3368743). 1.00 Hope and Gloria (60912). 2.35 Meridian News and Weather (63687830). 6.00 Meridian Tomorbt (762). 6.30 House News and Weather (685/6-30, 6-30 Mouse Meridian Tonight (762), 6-30 House Hunters: A gameshow in which five couples pit their wits against each other to guess the asking price of properties round the country. A property expert provides hints and tips that lead to a cash prize for the lucky victors (994) 10.45 Meridian News and Weather (909120), 4.05 (TV Nightscreen (46098250), 4.10 Cybernet (87553250),

4.35 ITV Nightscreen (46013927). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10-50 Fim:
The Wind in the Willows (5!23410), 12.15
Westcountry News (3368743), 12.27
Carols for Christmas: Bramdean School
Choir from Exeter sings a selection of
Carols (8682525), 1.00 Emmerdale
(60912), 2.35 Westcountry News
(6857830), 6.00 Westcountry Live
47743, 10.45 Westcountry News
(909120), 4.05 ITV Nightscreen
(46096250), 4.10 Cybernet: A look at
what's new in the world of computing,
focusing on leisure and the latest in confocusing on leisure and the latest in con-sole and PC games (87553250). 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (46013927).

YORKSHIRE As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (6674507). 1.00 Em-merdale: Marlon and Butch come to blows over Mandy, and Andy lets slip some dangerous information to his fe-ther (60912). 2.35 Calendar News Head-lines (6857830). 5.40 News; Weather (267828). 5.55 Calendar (961782). 6.30 Tonight: Christine Talbot presents the magazine programme that looks at all shades of life in the ragion, featuring painter Ashley Jackson (994). 10.45

Calendar News and Weather (909120). 4.05 Jobfinder (87563637). 4.30 ITV Nightscreen (14305231). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire excepts 12.20 North East News and Weather (8674507), 2.35 North East News Headlines (6857830), 5.55 North East Weather (744912), 6.00 North East Tonight (47743), 10.45 North East News and Weather (909120).

As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Judge Joe Brown (11204269). 1,00 Planed Plant - Rala Rwdins (46990876). 1,30 Classic Aircraft (2615910). 2,00 Personal Ser-vices (16758878). 4,30 Planed Plant (42703472). 5,30 Countdown (1134946). **5.00** Newyddion (19729410), **6.10** Hano (80465965), **7.00** Y Brodyr Bach (96287120), **7.45** Mi O Leislau (46398410). 8.45 Newyddion (2300240), 9.00 Gogs. Gogwana (56490385), 9.35 Friends (10655588), 10.05 Brockside Christmas Special 95594675). 10.40 Storm Force: A series looking at extreme weather conditions (34913236). 11.40 Westner concinions (3435236). Th40 Frasier (75721014). 12.40 Fighteous Babes (74354296). 1.35 All Back to Mine with Paul Weller (45859637). 2.40 Close.

DOWN

Hanging tapestry (5) Intended (5) 10 Difficult (7) 11 Type of poplar (5) Haste (5) 13 Germ-free (7)

15 Cosmetic powder (4) 17 Three-masted vessel (5) At right angles to ship (5) 22 Gown (4) 25 Distorted by strain (7)

ACROSS

27 Passage in church (5) 29 Recently (5) 30 Remove clothing (7) 31 Epiphany gift (5)

18 Type of bet (4,3) 20 Having facial hair (7) 21 Dark wood (5) Smell (5) 24 Belief in a god (5) 26 Stratum (5) 28 Become distended (5)

Detection device (5)

Coal tar distillate (7)

Hiding-place (5)

Attendant (7)

Rub out (5)

Normal (5)

Technique (5) 14 Blackleg (4)

16 Land measure (4)

32 Pastoral poem (5) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 5 Ghoul, 8 Lighters (Guuleiters), 9 Trace, 10 Maintain, 11 Usurp, 14 Led, 16 Unwise, 17 Oblate, 18 Eat, 20 Spasm, 24 Tabulate, 25 Chary, 26 Cut glass, 27 Atoli, DOWN: 1 Llama, 2 Again, 3 State, 4 Arrive, 6 Hard sell, 7 Ulcerate, 12 Snapshot, 13 Minstrel, 14 Lee, 15 Dot, 19 Abacus, 21 Fudge, 22 Nasal, 23 Verse.

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MATTHEW SWEET

TELEVISION REVIEW

(BBC2), I was more convinced than ever that they are special suits animated by a couple of operators, in the manner of a pantomime horse. In this programme, Jennifer (the one with the look of permanent surprise) and Charlesa (the one with the Desperate (the one with the Desperate Danjawline) bombed about the Jameston constitutions. any Two Tat Ladies: ching Two Tat Ladies: aribbean Christmas

Not a pleasant idea, but en the Ladies have always aded enthusiastically on this and of yuckiness. One of their incipal enthusiasms is for itchery, and they never seem ore happy than when they're eparing food which coughs blood on the kitchen work rfaces. Any of last night's awers wishing to see them arform their usual antics with al had to be satisfied with al had to be satisfied with al had to be satisfied with al had to he satisfied with a fine piggyl" whooped amifer, as Clarissa placed it er a cooking pit in the er a cooking pit in the er ac purity in the see interest the jugged-hare end of the linary spectrum is one of the asons why they're such a otesque novelty. As is their ther terrifying appearanco. It it's not their untelegenic ystones which make

Aside from their seeming Aside from their seeming utual contempt, the most table thing about the Ladies' tribbean Christmas was that ey somehow managed to nduct it without really ving to talk to any black ople. True, they listened actiously to a market ader on the subject of definition of the subject of t ir programmes such comfortable viewing, their forced camaraderie, i frisson of – well – hatred, ch seems to shiver

₹00

ongois!" breathed Jennifer, though she'd just membered that she went to shool with them. I wonder if he meant the Berkshire or the Wiltshire Mongols?

If their drawling eccentricity down to the cooking sherry, down to the cooking sherry, he in it wasn't considered fit to lention in Smashed: This loke Walks into a Bar (C4), he latest in this absorbing gason on alcohol abuse. The ubject was comedians' blance on drink, which, on he evidence of its impressive ange of interviews, is endemic the profession. Vornit of a flown syndrome, if you like. Thous Cameron was the only omic who seemed to be free f the desire to regularly ecome a dribbling drunken

es were completely ratted ig Comic Relief - and they id the clip to prove it. rand confessed that she k for confidence, Roland

BBC

Business Breakfast (38743). 7.00 News (T) (15217). 9.00 Sweet Valley High (R) (S) (7718588). 9.25 The Fame Game (R) (771675). 9.55 Teletubbles (9975675). 10.20 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8376385).

IIII Ferngully... the Last Rainforest (Bill Kroyel 1992 US). Eco-enimation in which a fairy, a fruit bat and a tiny lumberlack save an ictyllic valley. Sweet, but isn't that giving kids unrealistic expectations? (1780120).

11.40 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (T) (7036762). 12.25 Wipeout (S) (T) (9991365). 12.50 The Weather Show (S) (T) (73766507). 1.00 News; Weather (18304). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (45063781). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (97079168). 2.05 Battersea Dogs Home (S) (86867323). 2.35 Due South (S) (2783304).

3.20 Children's BBC: Noddy (R) (S) (8608507), 3.30 Casper (R) (S) (T) (3136946), 3.50 ChuckleVision (S) (T) (314940), 4.10 Get Your Own Back (S) (T) (2440025), 4.35 The Queen's Nose (8425965), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2052743), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (8775859).

6.00 News) Weather (T) (694). **5.35 Neighbours** (S) (T) (677502).

A **Question of Sport.** Sue Barker's visiting guests are Donovan Balley, Jonah Lomu, Dion Dublin and Pat Cash (S) (1) (4410).

7.30 Animal Sanctuary. John Craven meets some of the animals being cared for at the Wildlife Waystation in California (5) (T) (830).

8.00 The Life of Birds, in the concluding programme, David Attenborough looks at how birds cope with living in some of the harsheet and most bizarre places on the planet – from the sand grouse of the Namibian desert to the black vultures nesting on the 18th-floor balcony of a skyscraper in Sao Paulo, Brazil (S) (T) (963101).

8.50 The National Lottery (S) (T) (324526). News; Regional News; Weather (7) (6507).

War and Piste. Last of the ski-resort docu-soap, with chalet girl Katrina falling out with her assistant, Camilla (S) (T) (468217).

11.15 Robbie Williams - Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.
The former Take That pop showman allows cameras
along as he records his second album (S) (T) (224.526).

11.55 Faces Of Islam (S) (T) (672859).

12.15 Illim That Riviera Touch (Cliff Owen 1966 UK). Morecambe and Wise's second less-than-successful attempt to launch themselves onto the big screen, Jew thleves spoil their French hols (458231). 1.50 Joins BBC News 24 (79110873). To 7am

PROFILE OF THE DAY

BRING ME SUNSHINE - THE HEART AND SOUL OF ERIC MORECAMBE (B30pm BBC), right) The heart of Eric Morecambe was, of course, what killed him after triple-bypass surgery failed to stop a series of heart attacks which began in the late 1980s. A surprisingly large chunk of this stylish documentary (this is no Heroes of Conecty-style cuts-job) is taken up with Eric's failing health - and the irony here is laken up with Eric's failing health - and the irony here is late trine Wise was too ill to contribute to what is otherwise a cool-cyed portrait of a driven comedy genius. There are contributions from his family, and as well as hitherto

6.00 The Simpsons. Bart wins a fully grown elephant in radio contest (S) (1) (397507).

7.20 Rex the Runt. Bob Holness and Morwenna Banks lend their voices (S) (T) (660385).

8.00 Gary Rhodes' Perfect Christmas. A bit late for most of us who have already planned and shopped for our Christmas lunch, Rhodes promises a no-fuss meal 12 people, and roast turkey in under four hours (8472).

9.00 Dad's Army. Christmas Home Guard comedy.

Mainwaring's platoon decides to give a turkey dinner to the old-age pensioners of Walmington-on-Sea (R) (4149).

BBC2

7.00 Children's BBC: King Greenfingers (R) (S) (6932033).
7.05 Teletubbles (5933675). 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt: (R) (1878762). 7.50 To Me... to You (R) (S) (T) (8841675).
8.20 Eek the Cat (R) (3010526). 8.35 Taz-Mania (8234236). 9.00 Animal Winter Warmers (S) (312323).
12.00 The Tales of Caunterbury (S) (16365). 12.30 The Simpsons (S) (4482491). 1.40 Rex the Runt (50617304).
1.50 Rex the Funt (S) (7) (50613588). 2.00 International Showjumping (S) (6357697). 2.50 The West (4011101).
4.15 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1597491).

6.25 Rex the Runt. The Plasticine foursome fiddle the National Lottery (S) (T) (629743).

6.35 Star Trek: The Next Generation. While the Enterprise is investigating a massive dust cloud who could cause an ecological disaster, an uninvited visappears on the bridge (R) (S) (T) (641781).

7.30 Beowulf. Animated version of the epic Old English poem, featuring the volces of Derek Jacobi, Joseph Flennes and Timothy West (S) (T) (472).

8.30 Home Front. Jocasta Innes investigates seasonal home decorations in New England, USA. Plus, Christr gifts for dogs. How about a long walk? (S) (T) (7507).

9.30 Qoodness Graclous Me. A nativity play performed by members of a multi-cultural, inter-faith youth community centre in Hounslow and other sketches from the British Asian comedy team (S) (T) (6923223).

10.15 EIII Louis Theroux's Welrd Christmas.
Louis Theroux gives Christmas lunch for all the
assorted oddballs he collected in his last series. See
Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (258052).

/s; Weather (T) (981694).

London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather buildin (T) (762).

London Bridge. The past is catching up with isobel. Freddle plans his revenge (S) (994).

Emmerdale. More Yorkshire suds as Andy is forced to help plan a crime, and Pollard ruins Chris' plans for Home Farm (S) (T) (6878).

Coronation Street. Rits tips off the Duckworths about Alec's grand scheme. Judy goes into labour (expect a baby on Christmas Day) (1) (528).

Des O'Connor Tonight. The perma-tanned chat god gives a big welcome to Joe Pasquele, Norman Wisdom, Jackie Mason and Billy Pearce. Music from The Spice Girls and Barry Manilow (S) (7894).

London Tonight (T) (809120). ITN News, Weather (1) (635033).

ITHM On Thin Ice: the Tal Babilonia Story (Zale Dalen 1990 US). The true story of world-class Ice-skater Tal Babilonia, who resorted to drugs after Injury forced her out of the 1980 Olympics (S) (T) (562231). The Things You Do for Love. Another dramatised true-life romance. Band of Gold's Kay Meltor wrote this one about a fiftysomething woman who thinks she's being contacted from beyond the grave by a soldier she fall in love with as a 15-year-old (2822588).

GMTV (1992965). **9.25** ITN News Headlines (T) (4233946).

IIIM The Wind in the Willows (Dave Unwin 1995 UK). Animated version of Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tale voiced by Riik Mayali (Toad), Alan Bennett (Mole), Michael Palin (Rat) and Michael Gambon (Badger). Vanessa Redgrave is the narrator (S) (T) (5733168).

Your Shout (6574507), 12.30 News; Weather (T) (82052), 1.30 London Today (T) (60912), 1.30 Cross Wits (S) (T) (61323), 2.00 Wheel of Fortune (S) (T) (5762), 2.30 ITN News Headlines (T) (6865859), 2.35 London Today (T) (8857830), 2.40 Sharpe (R) (S) (T) (79502762), 4.40 Survival Special (S) (T) (5394385).

11.00 Bob and Margaret. Animation (T) (4782).

ITV Carlton

Children's ITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (1818439). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (R) (S) (717410). 10.20 Art Attack Christmas Cracker (R) (S) (T) (8201965).

12.30

20. 10.05

6.00 Late Lunch Behaving Badly. The cast of Men Behaving Badly plug their three-part Christmas special with the help of post-ironic chat queens Mel Gledroyc and Sue Perkins (45385).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (T) (7120).

7.30 The Bear's Tale. Documentary about the making of Channel 4's new, big, Raymond Briggs-scripted Christ-mas animation, *The Bear*, which screens tomorrow afternoon (T) (168).

8.00 Brookside Christmas Special. Three words to send shudders down the spine. Returned marriagewrecker Bev is determined to muscle in on Ron's relationship with Anthea (S) (T) (3168). 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Two friends go on a camping trip to the late of Wight, and a newly married couple take 15 of their friends on honeymoon with them (5) (7) (2675).

9.00 The Confrontation. Documentary following an alcoholic as he undergoes a controversial new treatment to beat his addiction. Brian signs up for "the intervention", a programme in which each member of his family must reveal how his alcoholism has affected their life. But will it work? (T) (5472).

10.00 Frasier. Frasier is in for a shock when he orders some stimulating Christmas presents for his son Frederick (R) (S) (T) (35410).

10.30 Harry Hill's Christmas Sleigh Ride (T) (11830).

11.30 Beg to Differ (705101). **12.05** The Comedy Lab (3429786). **12.35** The 1998 MOBO Awards (990250).

The World Music Awards 1998 (R) (844960). 3.40 The Haunted Fishtank (99383540). 4.05 ITV Night-screen (4666328). 4.40 Cybernet (13035415). To 5.05am. 3.45 1311(1) I Wake Up Screaming (H Bruce Humberstone 1941 US). Whodunit (7848637). To 5.10am. 2.15 11 When the Wind Blows (Jimmy T Murakami 1986 UK). Anti-nuclear animation. Every-pensioner Jim and Hilda Bloggs (voiced by Peggy Ashcroft and John Mills) try to cope with a nuclear holocaust (T) (675637).

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Channel

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW (
The Judependent 23 December 1998)

6.00 Sesame Street (54781). 7.00 For Better For Worse (R) (10453). 7.30 Super Trolls (R) (21878). 8.00 The Blg Breakfast (S) (T) (93507). 10.00 Saved by the Bell (R) (S) (T) (96694). 10.30 Eerle, Indiana (S) (T) (9859052). 10.55 The Secret World of Alex Mack (R) (S) (4118694). 11.30 Moesha (S) (T) (3410). 12.00 Madison (34781).

animated adventure is all bad. There's a nice central idea (dead dog sent back to Earth for lack of good deeds), but the script is a bit of a mongrel and the animation is rather on the conventional side. Burt Reynolds and Dom DeLuise are among the voices (T) (82088439). ITIM All Dogs Go to Heaven (Don Bluth 1989 Eire). And all turkeys go straight to video. Not that this

D5 The Hedgehog in the Fog (R) (T) (77790897). 2.15
Pet and Mat (77770033). 2.30 Frances Bissell's
Westcountry Christmas (R) (S) (T) (675). 3.00 Wine
Hunt (T) (2439). 3.30 Tool Stories (T) (120). 4.00 Fifteen
to One Highlights (T) (255). 4.30 Countdown (T)
(9419304). 4.55 Rickl Lake (S) (T) (7745859). 5.30 Pet
Rescue Awards (T) (491).

3.30 [3][M] Home for Christmas (Peter McCubbin 1990 US), Giutinous seasonaí fare. This comedy dre

stars Mickey Rooney as an old-time petty thief who is caught breaking into a car during the holiday season and forced to do work for its owner to the value of the damage. Yup, he befriends his victim's six-year-old daughter (T) (7458588).

D

.00 5 News and Sport (S) (6069236), 7.00 Wimzle's House (R) (6810323), 7.30 Milkshaket (S) (2459323), 7.35 Havakazoo (R) (S) (6021526), 8.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7432878), 8.30 What a Mess (743149), 9.00 Loggerheads (R) (7415101), 9.30 USA High (R) (S) (2052859), 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9907236), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (1390007), 11.10 Leza (R) (S) (8317255), 11.55 Russell Grant's Postcard's (9988985), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7235965), 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (6819894), 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2055946), 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1336526), 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2093101).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host, and on (S) (2261965). 6.30 Family Affairs. Nick finds he has some serious explaining to do when Pam discovers Liam in the back garden (S) (T) (2252217).

5.20 The Roseanne Show (9925120).

7.00 5 News including First on Five. Kirsty Young walks off with the day's top stories (S) (T) (1307014).

7.30 The Best of Pepsi. Channel 5's version of the Top of the Pops Christmas special, which comes in two parts (the second next Wednesday) (S) (224101).

8.00 Survivor. Dramatic reconstructions exploring the science of survivel. Oh, all right, dishing up other people's trauma for home entertainment. A father, mother and a tiny baby go out for a walk on a winter's day in Oregon. A blizzard sets in, they take a wrong turning and, well, you can more or less guess the rest (R) (T) (6402149).

60'6 soon will be unless you avoid this mind-numbing slice of soon will be unless you avoid this mind-numbing slice of everyday misery. Some young starlet by the name of Chandra West plays Morgan Fairchild's teenage daughter, who runs off to be a stripper after being abused by her mother's boyfriend. This film churns out the plot without anything new to say, or any real imaginative sympathy for the girl's plight (T) (58029217).

10.40 The Movie Chart Show. Tonight's show has a special Yuleilde theme and features some of the biggest turkeys of the year, apparently (S) (2702255).

100 Per Cent Guide to Sex. One hundred specialist questions on the subject of sex. Can't wait to see the contestants (5418633).

11.45 Jenny Ecialr: The Platinum Collection (4453014). 1.00 NHL Ice Hockey (34208927). 4.40 Club Class (81402279). 5.05 Move On Up (19165250). To 5.30am.

TELEVISION GUIDE IN GERARD GILBERT



rgh) Followers of Louis Therou.
raunited with some of the oddbal
naif investigator during his tour
this year. There's Randy, the Tex
of seeing the Devil in everything
J Michaels, the packet-sized po
the hermit survivalist who lived

ID CHRISTMAS (10.15pm BBC2, rou.x's Weird Weekends will be dibails unearthed by the faux-our of the United States earlier Texan evangelist with his habit ning (especially Santa Claus), if porno star, and Mike Oehler, wed in a hule in deepest Montana. In of them (and a mystery guest) New York, throwing together lyiews over roast turkey.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

<u>+</u>40

FILM OF THE DAY

seven samural (11.15pm BBC2, right) Akira Kurosawa's symbiotic relationship with Hollywood was best illustrated by this, his 1954 masterpiece. Kurosawa absorbed American movie genres, especially the western, so when John Sturges remade Seven Samurai as The Magnificent Seven, the transpacific artistic synthesis came full circle. Seven Samurai is a hugely enjoyable film, full of rich comedy and vivid characterisation, as well as the breathtaking action one expects from Kurosawa. The plot has all the simplicity of the classic western, as a village hires armed mercenaries to protect it against the annual incursion by the local banditry.





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